

-Lieutenant General-

Thomas "Trap" John Hall Trapnell



November 23, 1902
to
February 13, 2002



FIRST LIEUTENANT



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INTRODUCTION

If Hall Trapnell were alive today, I doubt very seriously that he would want to be remembered by his family as only having been a Bataan Death March survivor. Though it is his forced participation in this tragic event in our Nation's history for which he seems most recalled. This in itself is heartrending, because his life was a thrilling, adventuresome and horrific journey through which his heroic conduct brought great credit upon himself, his service and his legacy; an extended and grateful family.

The following document is intended as a simple *In Memoriam* to Hall's legacy and perhaps will shed some light on his endeavors to some of his family members who were too young to remember him, didn't have the presence of mind to go and visit him while he was alive (like me) or never had the opportunity to hear it "in his own words." Most of us, if asked now, would jump at the chance to hear his commentary on history; and thanks to Hill Pierce's taped interview (and Martha's and Will's), we can. The CD and accompanying booklet was intended to be a small reminder of Lieutenant General Hall Trapnell's life and works. The project grew a bit. It grew with interest in Hall's life, for a love of history and topics military, and from a desire to understand a time when our nation's defense seemed much simpler - but of course was very complex. Hall did more than add a few footnotes to history. Along with his brothers and cousins there should be enough fascinating history for generations of relatives. Not just for his tenure in Japanese captivity, but for his more active role in Korea, recommending policy in Indochina and the Vietnam War and in shaping the U.S. Army into the institution it is today. Hall ended his career at the prestigious rank of Lieutenant General (3-Star General) and was nominated to receive his 4th Star in retirement (it was not approved). Just one star from the top, but should be no stars short of a hero in our family's Heavens.

The moral, and there are many to be drawn from LTGEN "Trap," is that life's greatest tragedies - when survivable - are not the definition of a man but merely a punctuation mark from which to step higher and achieve greater things.

Acknowledgements:

- My brother Henry Hill Pierce. For having the courage to ask Hall many difficult questions, for having the intelligence to record it all on an enduring form of media and for having the patience to just listen and let the man speak.
- Col "Buck" Trapnell (Ret.) for sharing his wealth of Hall-a-phenalia, stories about the man that filled in many many details and gave me hours of further reading, and for his service in Vietnam for our country. Someday I'll ask my son to do an oral interview of Buck's time as a commander of infantrymen.
- Martha and Will Warthen for unknowingly providing me with a lot more background through their own oral history interviews with LTGEN Trapnell.
- St. Louis Military Records administration, the National Archives, Ft. McNairs (Wash D.C.) Army Center of Military History, Army Heritage Center, Carlisle Barracks, PA.
- And to-
- The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. Whose breadth of recommended reading and encouragement assisted immeasurably in assembling information from some obscure sources and war journals.

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CHAPTER I

-Introduction-

Thomas John Hall Trapnell, or "Trap" as he was called, was born the middle child of seven in Yonkers, New York on the 23rd of November 1902 to Mr. Joseph Trapnell and Mrs. Laura Kennedy to a prominent family from the Chesapeake with strong military traditions. His brothers included Walter Scott Kennedy Trapnell who went on to become a Commander in the U.S. Navy and William Holmes Trapnell who became an attorney. His first cousin, Frederick M. Trapnell became a Rear Admiral and a famous test pilot earning praise as a "natural flier." He was personally chosen by Roy Grumman to test the Grumman F6F the Navy's answer to the lethal Japanese Zero. Frederick would know what it took to build a better fighter, he flew a captured Zero.¹ Hall graduated from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA at the top of his class in 1926 and was offered scholarships to Yale, Princeton and Harvard. He turned them all down and instead accepted the beginning of a brilliant military career through an appointment as a Cadet at the United States Military Academy, West Point in the same year.

Trap was a hell of a West Pointer! An All-American Half-Back and serving as class President for two years. In his senior year he was appointed unanimously, no one would run against him. He was one of few tri-athletic team members playing football, baseball and lacrosse. He was the top player on the football team rising to captain the team through one of its most memorable years in 1926. He earned the



¹ The Japanese Zero dominated the early years of the war until the F6F was fielded. The F6F "Hellcat" would account for over 5,000 Japanese plane kills during WWII. Frederick's opinion alone gave the modifications Grumman needed for the aircraft and without any further testing besides Frederick's flights or approval from the Navy, the aircraft was rushed into production and service. He later commanded the USS Coral Sea. His creation of the U.S. Navy test pilot program, role as a pilot flying from rigid dirigibles and slight participation in the "Revolt of the Admirals" will provide tremendous reading for any with interest. The Naval Air Station (NAS) airfield at Patuxent River, MD still bears his name.

ARMY TURNS BACK HOBART TWELVE, 4-1

**Ayre and O'Connell Each Tally
Twice—Trapnell Brothers
Clash in Scrimmages.**

Special to The New York Times.

GENEVA, N. Y., April 30.—The attack of the Hobart lacrosse team was unable to make much headway against the defense of the Army twelve here this afternoon and the West Point aggregation won by 4 to 1. The game was featured by brilliant field play and stickwork by both teams.

Army scored two goals in each half. Ayre in the first half and O'Donnell in the second each scoring twice. Budd registered Hobart's single goal after nine minutes of playing in the second half.

Captain T. J. Hall Trapnell of the Army team and Captain William H. Trapnell of Hobart, brothers, engaged in several sharp scrimmages, the first of which resulted in Captain Trapnell of the Army leaving the field under a three-minute penalty.

The game was witnessed by a record crowd for a lacrosse game here, approximately 2,000 spectators watching the contest.

The line-up:

ARMY (4).		HOBART (1).	
Lewis	.....G.	.....Elleyt	
Daley	.....C.P.	.....Orr	
Anderson	.....F.D.	.....Raymond	
Seaman	.....E.D.	.....Trapnell	
Born	.....S.D.	.....Deel	
Harbold	.....T.D.	.....Phigar	
Trapnell	.....C.	.....Buelly	
Collins	.....T.A.	.....Budd	
Draper	.....S.A.	.....Ratcliffe	
Ayre	.....F.A.	.....Leader	
Saunders	.....L.H.	.....Taft	
Simonton	.....O.H.	.....Engert	

Goals—Army: O'Donnell 2, Ayre 2. Hobart: Budd.
Substitutions—Army: Holley for Anderson, Salem for Collins, Wilson for Draper, Collins for Ayre, Simonton for Saunders, O'Donnell for Simonton, Draper for O'Donnell.
Referee—Henry, Cornell. Judge of play—Groner, Lehigh.

The New York Times

Published: May 1, 1927

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nickname "the Warhorse of the West Point backfield" which stuck with him throughout his service career. Several very interesting events include the Army Navy game played in 1926 with 120,000 spectators in attendance at Soldiers Field in Chicago, IL. That game was tough stuff, and resulted in a now infamous tie 21-21. Army suffered only one loss that year to Notre Dame. He was also nominated as Captain of the lacrosse team and perhaps more interesting to family was his brutal lacrosse game against his brother on 1 March of 1927. William Trapnell, Hall's younger brother, was the Captain of the Hobart and William Smith lacrosse team and their unlikely face-off lead to a thrilling, albeit bloody match. According to the New York Times the two brothers practically beat each other to death with Army pulling out a 4-to-1 victory (a tragic loss by HWS! But fortunately one of few that season) with Trap being removed from the game for a 3-minute penalty.¹



After graduation in 1927 he became a Platoon Leader in the 11th Cavalry in Monteray, CA the 4th Cavalry in South Dakota and the 3rd Cavalry at Fort Myer in Arlington, VA where he served with two prominent future Generals; Wainwright and Patton. This proved important to young Lieutenant Trapnell and he would have an opportunity to personally carry out vital and heroic orders from General Wainwright in a desperate hour on the Bataan Peninsula. He was sent to the Troop Officers and Advanced Equitation Schools. Then to the Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas. The Company Commanders Course and Signal School. In 1929 he married Alys Snow with whom he'd remain until her tragic death in 1953.² In January of 1932 Hall was promoted to First Lieutenant. On 14 June 1937, Trap was promoted to Captain and by 1939, continuing his cavalry themed background, he was sent to the Philippines to join the storied 26th Philippine Scouts who would go into history as the unit to perform the last American cavalry charge. He wasn't sure that he'd signed up for the right career move, but life in the Philippines was amazing.



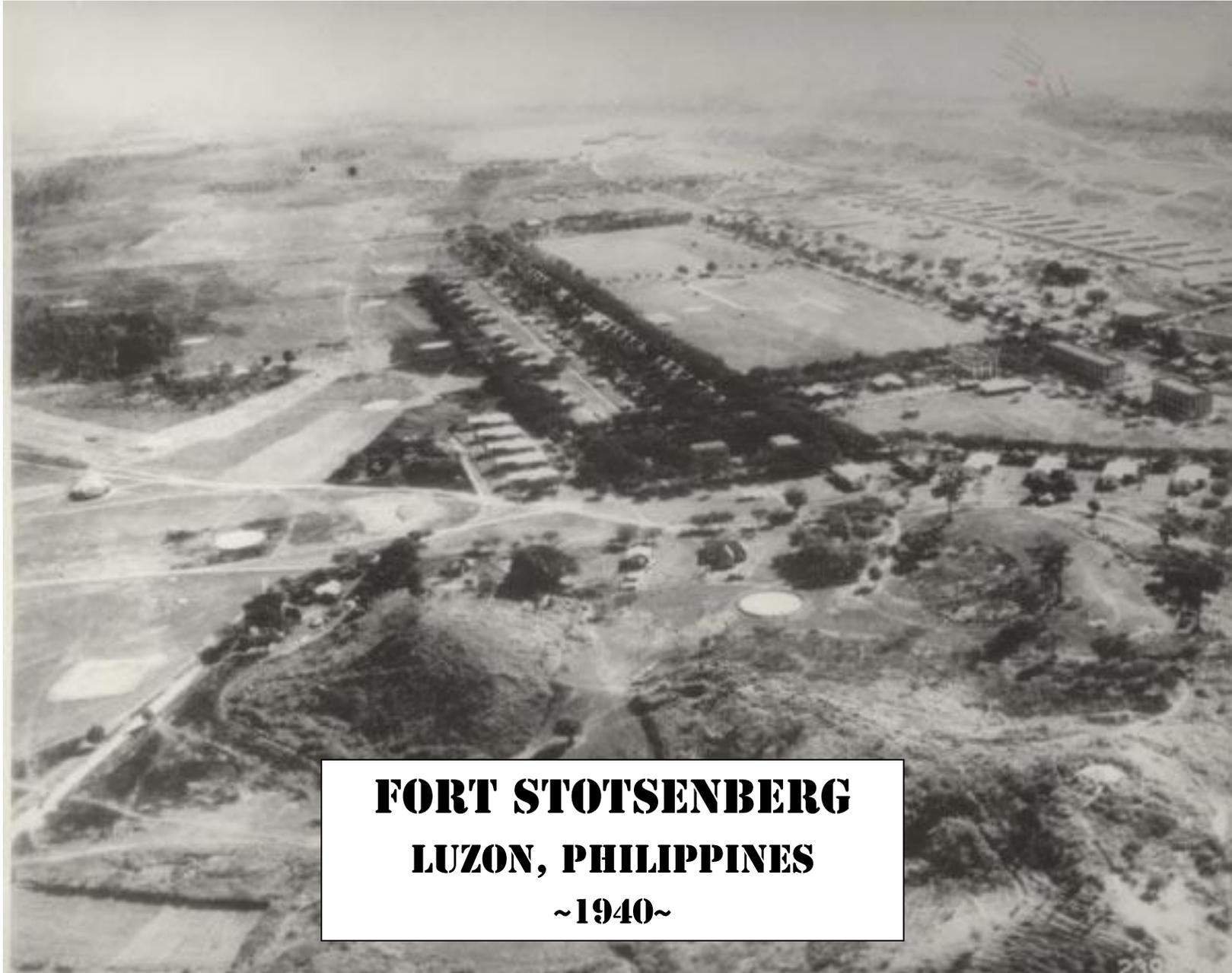
² Mrs. Alys Trapnell was found dead on the beach by a patrolman. Courier News, 20 January 1953.



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FORT STOTSENBERG
LUZON, PHILIPPINES
~1940~



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The Philippines and specifically Fort Stossenberg was one of the best posts in the Army. Every night the Officers would gather for a formal dinner in Dress White Uniform followed by cards and drinks. There was a champion polo team and club of which Trap became a member. Cavalry Officers of the time were all encouraged to engage in polo and while Trap had been stationed at Fort Myer the men had been vigorously recruited to play polo. So much so that the some of the prominent Garrison Commanders forbade their men from playing golf with a notice to all the local links that Cavalry Officers should be ejected from the golf courses and their names referred to the Post Commanders. Upon their returns, many golf playing Officers found themselves at the position of attention in front of their superiors and received words that if they had time to play golf they had time to ride.

Amid this peaceful facade lay many preparations for war. It had been assumed since 1897 that the Japanese had designs on the Philippines and the Western Pacific. The sailing of Admiral Dewey's Great White Fleet (they were painted white) in 1907 had signaled the U.S. had

come of age in modern Naval strategy and Japan had noticed. Hall took his first command (command in the Army is considered above the "Troop" level, but it was still a command) of F-Troop of the 26th Philippine Scouts on 01 July 1940. War preparations began in earnest around this time. Alys was sent back to the United States "when the Army wives were evacuated" in May, 1941, and war preparations in the Philippines continued.





CAPTAIN

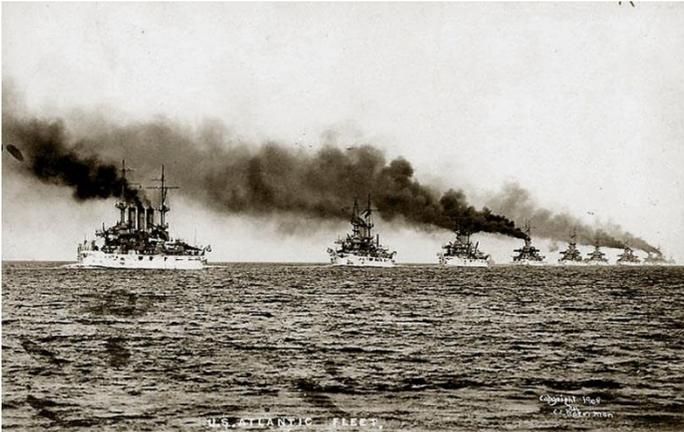


CAPTAIN

CHAPTER II

-The Philippines-

Any discussion of WWII battles in the Philippines should begin with the Spanish American war. The Spanish American War began in 1897 after American intervention in the Cuban revolution. America was



determined to consolidate a regional hegemon and to prevent other foreign nations from interfering with what the U.S. determined was its sphere of influence. American interest in Spanish colonial holdings ensured the inclusion of the Philippines in the greater conflict against Spain. In the 300 years of Spanish rule, the Philippines had developed from a series of small colonial outposts to one of the most educated and forward leading colonies in the Pacific. Philippine leaders had begun a series of insurrections and revolts against Spanish rule in 1886. This instability gained American public support for the Philippine cause and led to American involvement including Admiral Dewey's now famous defeat of the Spanish Pacific fleet at the battle of



Manila bay. The conclusion of the war conflict brought the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1898 and with it American authority over Cuba, and indefinite colonial authority over Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippine islands. America immediately occupied the same positions in government the Spanish had vacated including a garrison force of 10,000 U.S. soldiers. This brought no end to the unrest as popular Philippine leaders directed first conventional then guerilla war against their new colonial leaders. The Philippine-American war began in 1899 and lasted three bloody years.

Casualties from the Philippine-American war (called the Philippine War of Independence by Filipinos) are estimated between 32k and 1-million. Clearly a bloody conflict. Of great interest of late in the Philippines are the atrocities committed by American forces. Perhaps as interestingly are the atrocities committed by the Filipinos against Americans. In either case from tremendous bloodshed grew the beginnings of a great state and with it the strong bond of Americans to the Philippines which is much diminished today. The Catholic Church was removed from its close establishment with the state and English was made the majority language. The land owned by the Church was purchased and re-distributed to American and Philippine entrepreneurs which began a period of





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Photo # NH 95513-KN "Great White Fleet", by John Charles Roach

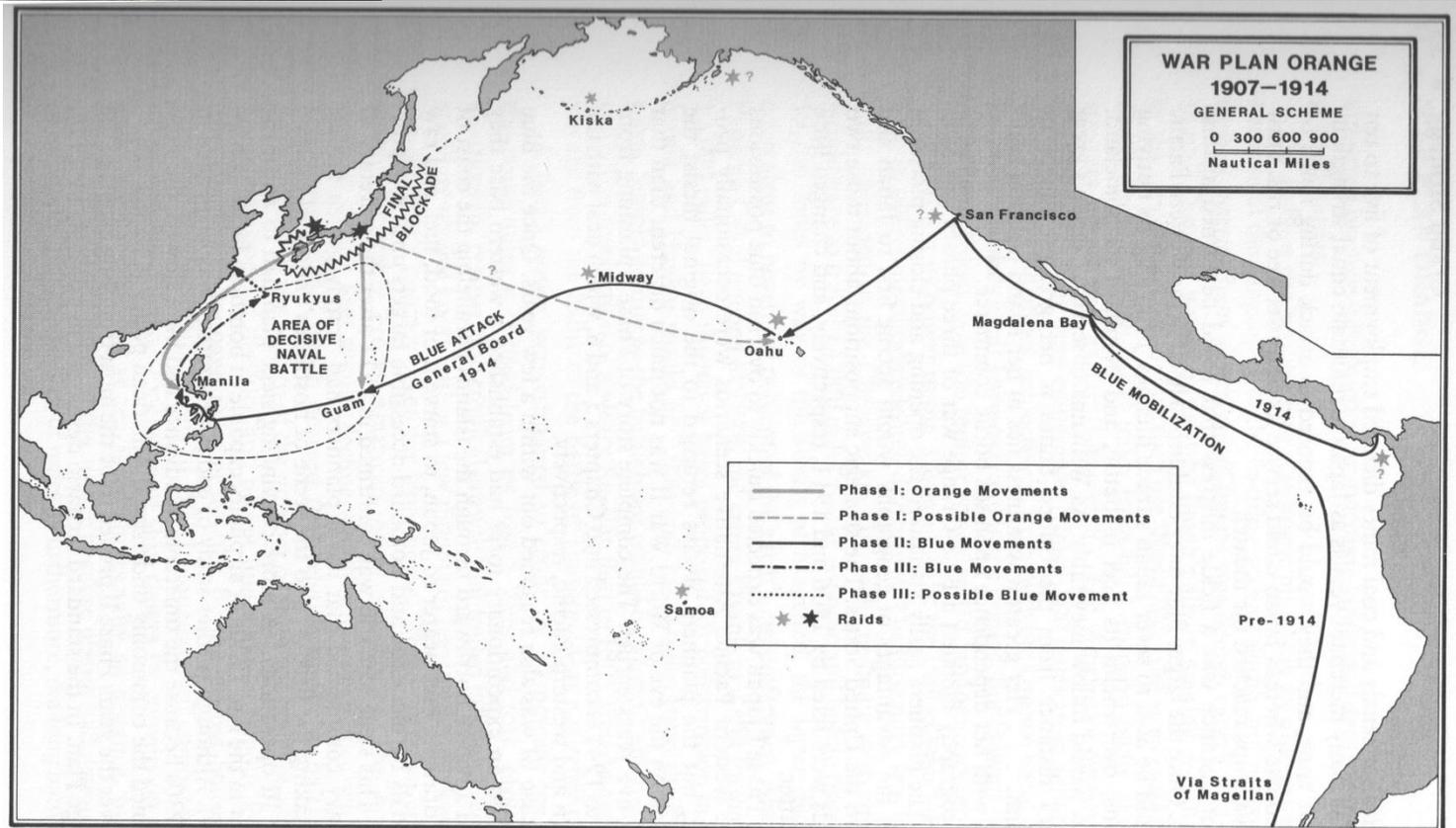


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massive growth as agribusiness dominated the islands. It is worth noting that the first U.S. appointed committee to investigate the needs of the Philippines was Dr. Jacob Schurman (the former President of Cornell University). He summarized that the Philippines wanted independence, but were not ready. By 1915, the U.S. began its promised moves toward Philippine independence, by 1935 some limited independence was granted, and a Constitution was signed and witnessed granting Philippine authority.

-An Army Reorganized-

Many years of bloody conflict had made Americans weary of the Philippines, but as generally happens had grown a particularly strong affinity between U.S. Service members and Filipino Service members. The reorganization of the Philippine Army (the PA) began almost immediately as insurrection began and only strengthened as key positions were slowly assumed by Filipino Officers and Senior Enlisted men. Senior positions were still filled exclusively by active U.S. Army Officers and many junior officers felt that serving in these far off posts were an excellent way to cut



MAP 4.1



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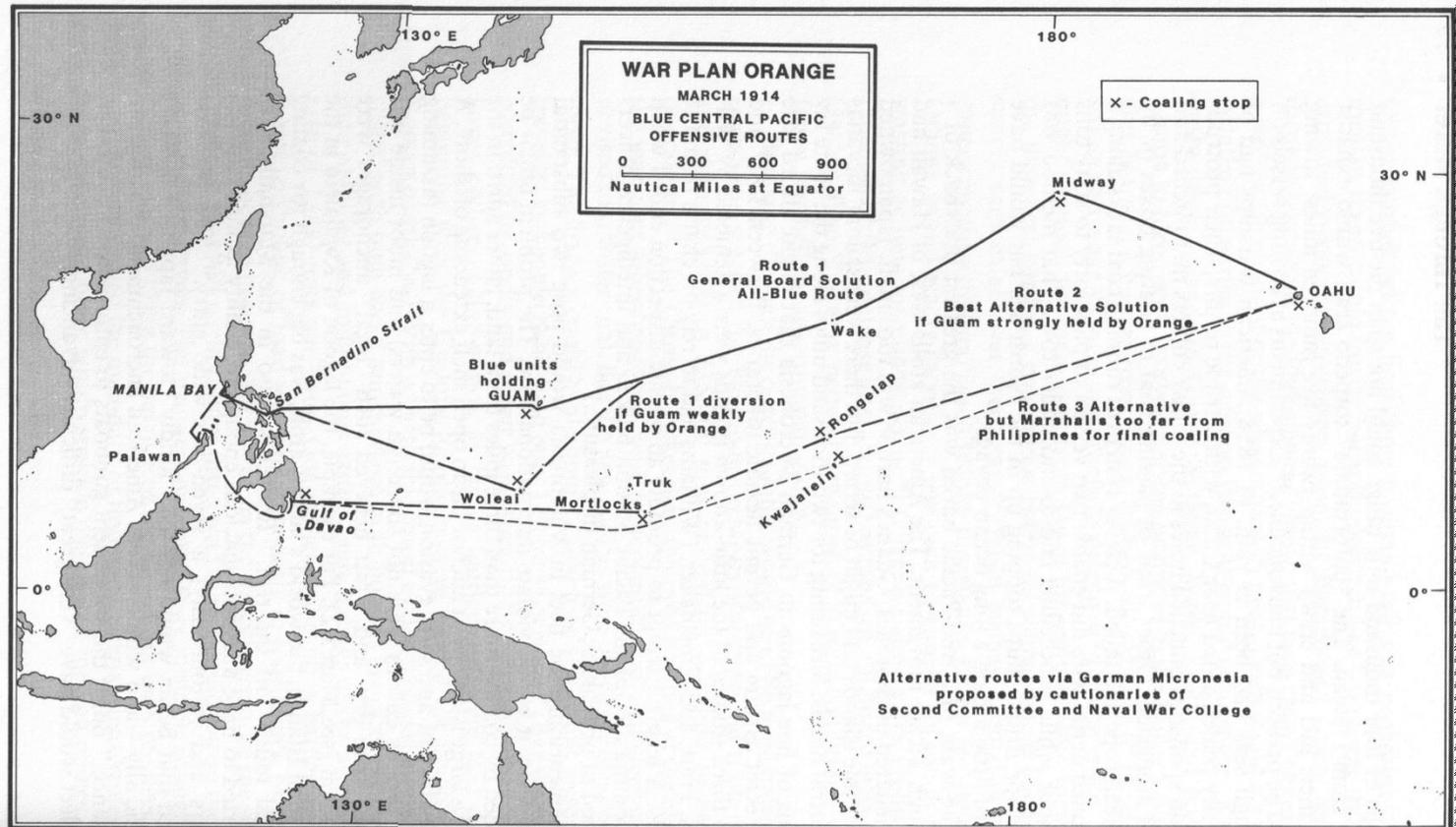
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your teeth and be recognized. With no active conflicts most uniformed service members will gravitate toward whatever looks the most adventuresome making those billets coveted and prized assignments for eager and gallant young men.

The Philippine Army was divided into three major subdivisions, one was the PA itself which was governed and commanded by Filipino officers, the Philippine Reserve Army and the Philippine Scouts (The PS). Over many years of service, the U.S. commissioned officers selected the best and most fit men to become scouts from the Philippine Army. A spot in the PS became a sought after assignment and many first families of the Philippines sent their sons for commissions in the PA hoping for a chance at the Scouts. Understandably the U.S. outfitted them with 1st rate equipment and weapons. They were the light weapons and armament of a mounted scout troop but much better than what the regular Philippine Army was equipped with. This made the Scouts one of the most experienced and best trained forces in the Pacific. Less understandably, the PA received lessor equipment and was generally commanded by less ambitious officers and personnel. Possibly more tragically were the reserves. Populated by the average citizen whose reading and writing skills were poor, commanded by often corrupt and inept leadership they received heavily degraded and older equipment generally left over from WWI. This would play a large role in the collapse of the defenses on the Bataan peninsula and subsequently the largest capitulation of U.S. forces in our nation's history.

-Grand Strategy-

Military planners across the world and in the past several centuries divide war planning and campaigning into a **three tiered** hierarchy. At the top is the **Strategic Level** of war (sometimes



MAP 9.2



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"Grand Strategy"). These are matters of statecraft and are decided upon by the President, his civilian and military leaders and are designed to protect American interests globally. In the middle is the **Operational Level** of war. Traditionally thought of as "theaters" of conflict. They involve Armies and their substitutes now called "Combatant Commands." During Hall's time, the Pacific was variously divided into regions, but the "Pacific Theater" is considered an "Operational level" of war. More to Hall's level of daily soldiering was the "Tactical level" of war. The **Tactical Level** of war is anything below the operational and includes Divisions of troops and what many might think of most often in war, which is the foot soldier or Marine battling it out with his enemy. At each of these levels planners are making decisions and allocating resources.

-War Plan Orange-

The 'Grand Strategy' for the Pacific in the 1930's was, as it generally is after every major conflict and economic downturn: "Do more with less." At the Operational level, the Army and Navy were each vying brutally for control of resources and congressional monies but both agreed to a joint defense and attack plan. "War Plan Orange" was the code name for a broad and joint Army and Navy plan to defeat Japan, and Japan alone. It had been developed in 1906 and adopted by the services as a "plan in the can," which allocated forces and assigned priorities for war material. The plan called for decisive Naval battle (called a *Mahanian* naval battle after Admiral Mahan) followed by a strong land campaign. The plan predated the so called "Rainbow Plans" which were developed in the mid-20's, with each colored plan assigning priorities for war efforts against nations deemed most likely to fight America for regional dominance.ⁱⁱ What is most interesting and applicable to **War Plan Orange** (Specifically **War Plan Orange-3** the final evolution of the plan) and a young Major caught in its midst is that the services each degraded their portion of the plan as they lost more funding (the Navy for instance only crewed half of their ships) and the land forces in the Pacific were expected to hold out on their own until relief arrived. Once it was dusted off after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, HI it was virtually useless in preventing the collapse of America's Western Pacific interests.

Planners and their plans trickle down to form the next level of plans, and a poor plan at the top makes for even poorer planning at the operational and tactical levels of war. And so it was in the Philippines in

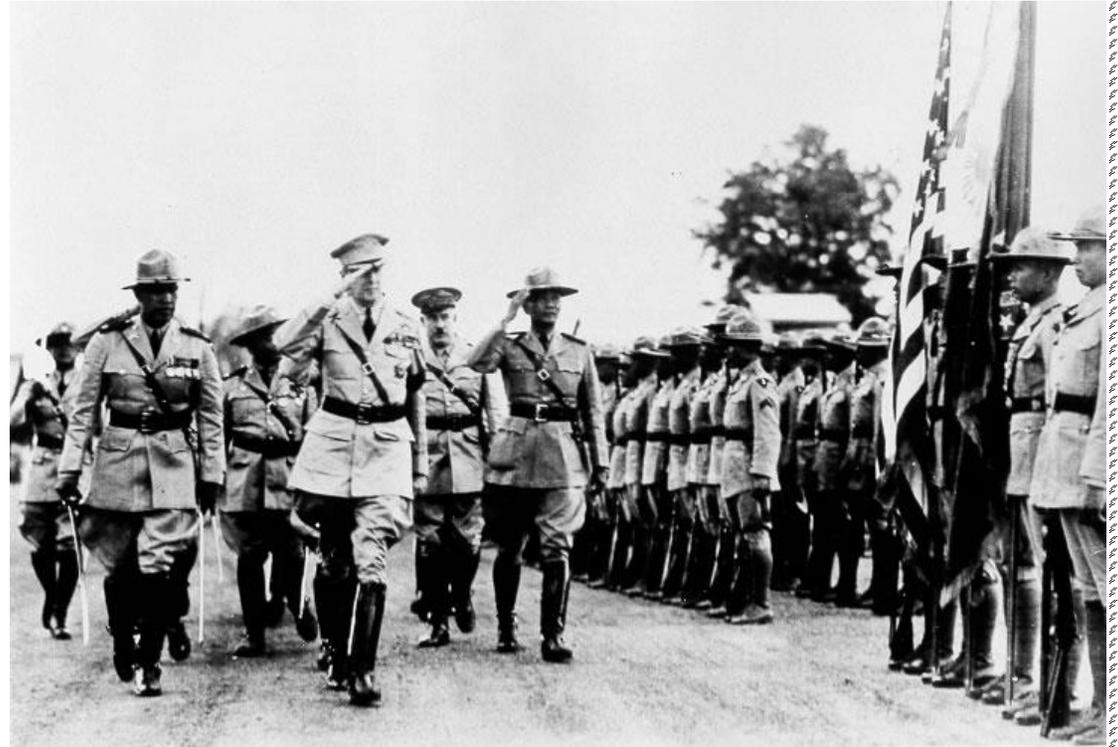




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the 1930's. No one had adjusted War Plan Orange at the top to account for updates in technology (long range bombers and advanced submarines for instance) or changes in service positions and so the theater of the Philippines found themselves wholly unadjusted for the coming modern war. In an interesting twist of logic, the Japanese believed just as much that their lack of numbers (the Washington Naval treaty limited their fleet) would lead to a *Mahanian*³ Naval plan and so sought to defeat the U.S. battleships at Pearl Harbor forcing the U.S. Navy to use its carriers. A distinct outgrowth beckoned all nations to the conclusion that a cheap, carrier based plane could defeat an expensive, reinforced battleship forever tipping the operational balance.

Somewhere between the operational and tactical levels of war lay General Douglas MacArthur (though his loss of the Philippines would be strategic). Rumor has it that after a storied history in WWI and an equally storied courting of the millionaire



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socialite Louise Cromwell Brooks, General Pershing (of "Blackjack" fame) exiled the now famous Mac to the Philippines. Apparently old Blackjack wasn't happy that Mac had successfully courted the girl he thought he was destined to marry. Regardless, General MacArthur set the stage for what would happen both in his strong belief in providing fair wages and good training to the Filipino divisions (under American Army authority) and in his close ties to the people. MacArthur left the Philippines in the mid-20's but returned in 1935 at the behest of the now semi-independent Philippine President. MacArthur was officially retired from the U.S. Army in 1937 having already been accepted a Field Marshall in the Philippine Army and soon to be Major Hall Trapnell's commanding General. At the tactical level of war now enters a young Army Major. Fresh off his first tours of duty and ready for adventure in one of the furthest posts of the land (to be fair, the U.S. Marines had posts further

in both Japan and China).

³ Named for Rear Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan the U.S. Naval strategist of the 19th Century.



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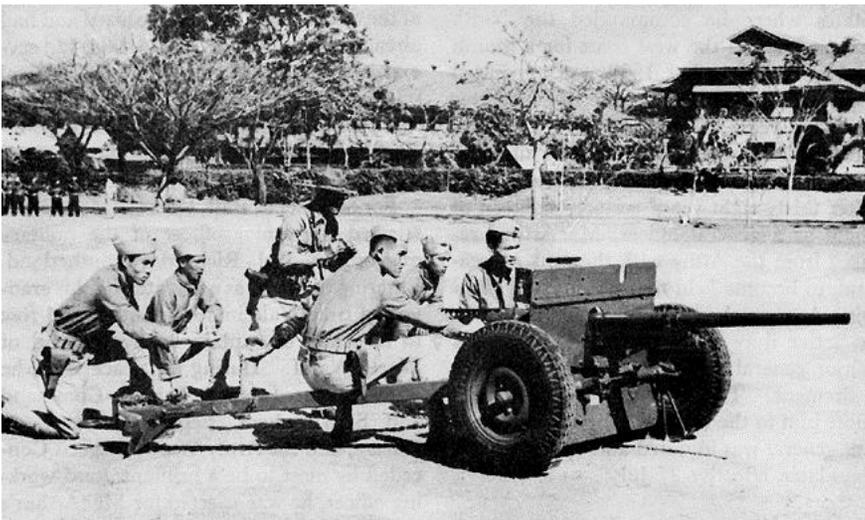
-Cavalry-

It will not be apparent to most today how important and even noble the art and science of cavalry was to the military in the 1930's. Receiving a commission in the military was no small feat, but being selected for the cavalry was a rare and coveted appointment. In his testimony before a Congressional committee, the last Chief of Cavalry, Maj. Gen. John K.



Herr, 1939 remarked that horse cavalry had "stood the acid test of war," whereas the motor elements advocated by some to replace it had not. He believed that there was no place for motorization (or even mechanization) of the U.S. fighting forces. At the time the country had more than 12,000,000 horses and over 4,500,000 in the United States. He believed strongly that "although in some cavalry missions it may be better to use horse cavalry alone or mechanized cavalry

alone, on the whole the best results can be accomplished by using them together."⁴



⁴ Congressional Committee of the United States, Maj. Gen. John K. Herr, 1939



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-The 26th-

Hall was assigned to one of the most coveted spots in the Army, the Philippine Scouts; and better still the 26th Cavalry of the PS. All the officers were American, and all the men were hand selected Filipinos. The unit was divided into sub-units called "Troops" mounted on horseback. There were also weapons sections which specialized in machinguns, and a platoon of armored scout cars but the average Troop had a compliment of

The troops worked daily on field maneuvers and horsemanship, named their horses and rode them for life. They conducted training on specialized missions like raids and outflanking less maneuverable opponents which is the hallmark of a maneuver force like the cavalry. They fired everything from pistols and carbines from the saddle and machineguns and light cannon dismounted to train and desensitize their mounts. The Scouts became very attached to their animals. It's difficult not to imagine how proud and excited Trap must have been. Here he is truly fulfilling the obligations of his oath of office, on horseback, in an adventuresome land.



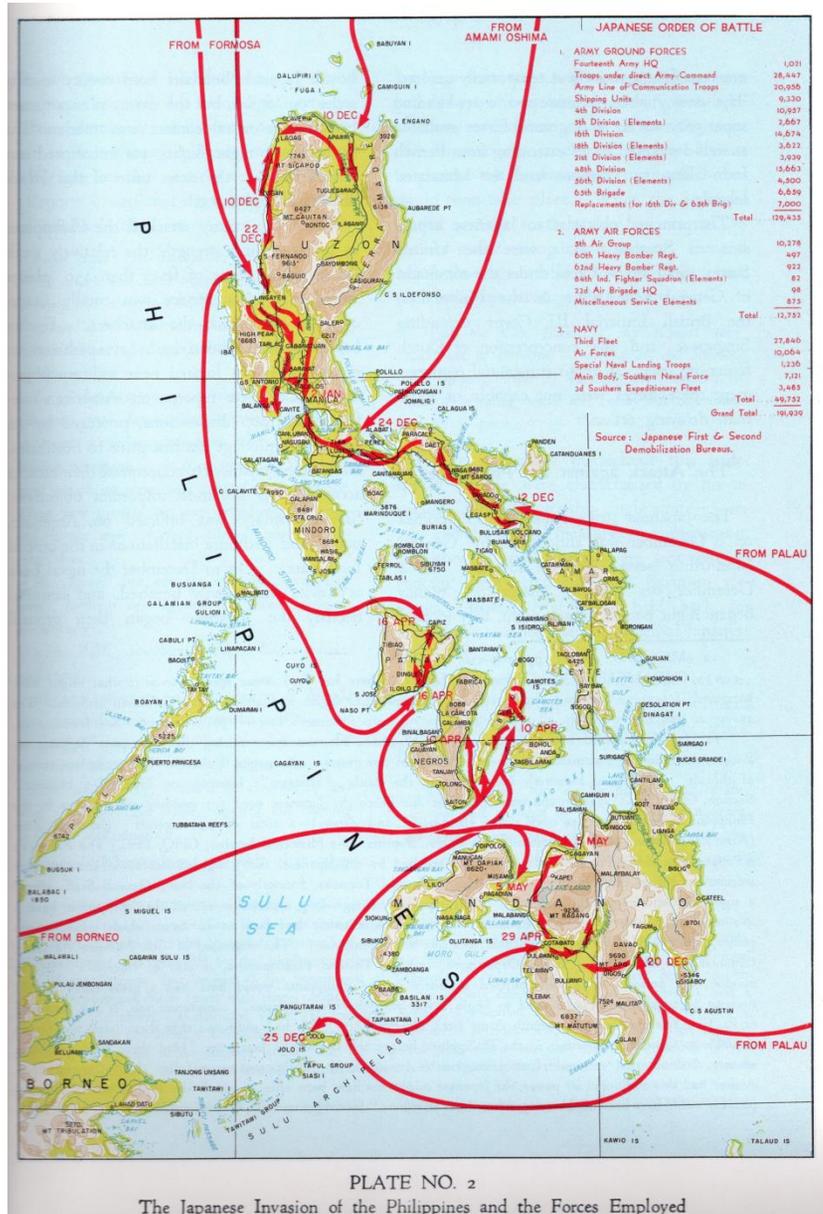
In January of 1941 Hall is promoted to Major (in actuality in the reserves). Officers serving in active forces were often augmented to the reserves until their commissions and promotions could be confirmed by Congress during a time of war. At the outset of war officers received commissions from the regular army to the AUS, or "Army of the United States" which was the mobilized active forces, reserves and conscripts and served with accelerated promotions and commissions out of wartime necessity and until the conclusion of war. Halls official date of rank to Major was not until 14 June 1944, which was a demotion from his wartime, most senior rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The demotion at that point was only administrative and not punitive.



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CHAPTER III

-The Tape-

Hall's full interview with Hill is not longer than 37 minutes. The interview was conducted at LTGEN Trapnell's home in Northern Virginia by Hill Pierce for a School project. I transferred the tape in its entirety (including someone practicing the piano at the end). It's important to recognize that there are several other tapes made of Hall and some oral histories some of which are included on the accompanying CDs.

00:00 - Hill: "What were you doing before the war." Hall answers with his unit, the 26th Phillipine Scouts at Fort Stotsenberg as a commander of "F" Troop (see the wire and block chart at the end). Hall then explains that he was putting down domestic disturbances at Nichols Field. This involves putting down Phillipine insurrection near a U.S. Airfield.

-The Japanese Invasion-

At the end of July 1941 any American in the Philippines knows an attack from Japan is imminent. All dependent families are sent back to the United States and General MacArthur is recalled back to active duty and made the commander of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFEF).

01:14 - Hall: Hall receives a call from General MacArthur's Chief of Staff requesting that the unit he commands, F-Troop, rejoin his Regiment, the 26th Phillipine Scouts back at Fort Stotsenberg.



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This is significant because Hall is attached directly to the Manila defense force, so he works directly for MacArthur's men in the main defense force for Manila which till then was mainly concerned with "domestic disturbances" which were insurgents. There wasn't much insurgent activity but ample time to practice horsemanship. It also means MacArthur's staff recognized that the 26th would be one of the first units it would commit to the defense of the Philippines. General MacArthur had sent back to the Department of the Army his assessment of War Plan Orange's ineffectiveness in 1935, but most of it was ignored. He sent back earnest pleas for additional, modern equipment and reinforcement. He received reassurances and began, through the summer to receive some, limited modern equipment including 8,500 men and B-17 long range bombers. Most of these bombers will be destroyed due to negligence and surprise on their runways as will some of the modern P-41 fighter aircraft. The loss of these aircraft at the operational level leads to a subsequent loss of air dominance for the entire Philippines and the Japanese air supremacy over the men fighting on the battlefield from both Bataan and Corregidor.

01:38 - Hall: "Clark Field had been bombed."

The Japanese invasion of the Philippines was preceded by large and precise bombings of all the airfields, ammo dumps and capitol harbors (Manila on Luzon) on 07 December 1941 which was the 08 December 1941 in Pearl Harbor and the U.S. because of the international date line. The bombings were done by Japanese medium bombers (G3M and G4M Mitsubishi) from the islands of Formosa because they had no heavy bombers and their range was restricted. Many believe the location of American heavy bombers (the modern for the time B-17s) at Clark and Nicholson Fields was a major Operational level of war blunder by MacArthur and should have been staged on one of the southern islands of the Philippines. The intelligence the Japanese were able to amass before the war was complete and accurate based largely on Philippine sympathizers who wanted full independence and believed Japan would give it to them. It was estimated that the Japanese had several hundred spies and Philippine insurrectionists conducting espionage and sabotage. The Philippine people would suffer the worst of what was to come with over one-million civilian and military casualties.

02:00 - Hall: "'Skinny' Wainright was up there and he gave me command of the 2nd Squadron."

This will be 09 December 1941, which is listed as the official first day Hall takes command of a full Squadron. When General MacArthur was recalled back to active duty he decided that War Plan Orange-3 wasn't an active enough defense and divided the island of Luzon into a Southern and Northern Luzon Force Commands. Wainwright made his HQ at Fort Stotsenberg for a short time and intended to command his force from there. General Jonathan M. Wainwright was well known to Hall and the General knew Hall personally from their time together in the 11th Cavalry. Their relationship would prove significant as Wainwright gave orders to Hall personally (bypassing his chain of command) on several occasions during the battle of Bataan. General Wainwright weighed less than 120 pounds and was nicknamed "Skinny" even before his surrender and subsequent internment. He suffered horribly under Japanese captivity as did all POWs and when he was repatriated he weighed even less. Many of the other surviving senior leaders died in captivity and General Wainwright in his memoirs details the abuse and death of many of his friends.ⁱⁱⁱ General MacArthur refused General Wainwright's nomination for the Medal of Honor believing that he had failed to defend Bataan and had surrendered prematurely.^{iv} General Wainwright was present at the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri.



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02:00 - Hall: "We moved up there so we didn't get hit like the B-17's did."

The 26th Philippine Scouts were independent of MacArthur until the war began. They had made plans and stockpiled several riverbeds North of Fort Stotsenberg in the eventuality that they would have to move out fast. Additionally they rehearsed movements through the jungle by horseback and believed that they would play a very active role in the defense of the Northern coast of the Philippines.^v

03:36 - Hall: "Here came a B-17 with two Jap Zero's on its tail."

It's December 10th, 1941 at 0930 and Captain Colin Purdie Kelly, Jr is in command of one of the last two B-17's left in the Philippines. He and his crew are ordered to bomb the Japanese invasion flotilla mustering North of Luzon. It was a suicide mission, and Kelly and his wingman dropped their bombs on the fleet, hitting and destroying a few transports. It was reported he had hit and killed battleships but none were present with General Homma (the Japanese Commanders) fleet at the time. Kelly's flight of two planes was immediately attacked by Japanese fighters and was disabled. Kelly ordered his men out of the plane and remained at the controls to ensure they got out. The plane exploded and ejected Kelly and his copilot. Kelly's chute did not open but all the others survived.^{vi} This is the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for Heroism given in the war for Air Forces which Hall mentions. Hall will receive the first DSC for Ground Forces.

04:38 - Hall: "Two British ships had been sunk."

The HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse were both sunk on 10 December, 1941 by Japanese torpedo bombers. The significance of this was readily apparent to the men in the Philippines because much like Pearl Harbor, these battleships (and Task Force Z which accompanied them) were headed off to attack the Japanese invasion fleet at Malaya. Like the U.S. loss of its battleship fleet at Pearl harbor this is the advent of the collapse of the British colonies and holdings in the Pacific.^{vii} News of this would have sent echoes across the forces.

04:51 - Hall: "The Japs were landing at Lingayen."

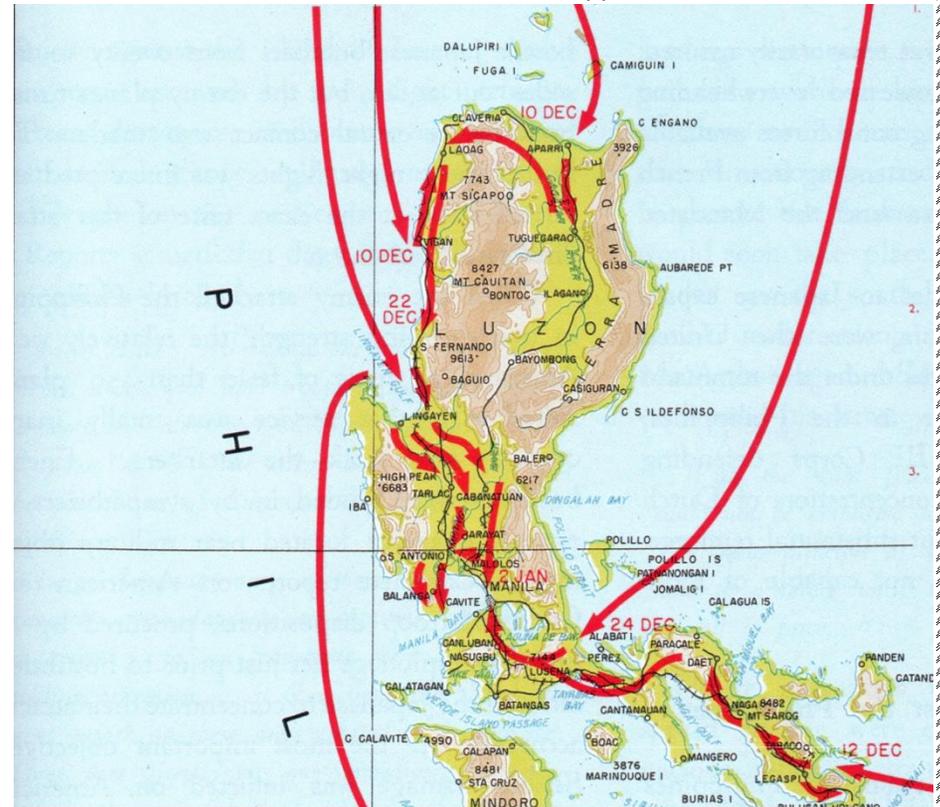


PLATE NO. 2

The Japanese Invasion of the Philippines and the Forces Employed



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Lingayen Gulf located on North West Luzon, Philippines was a protected, convex shaped harbor. General Masaharu Homma was in command of the Japanese invasion fleet of about 43,000 men consisting largely of Naval and Army forces of the Japanese 14th Army. His strict timetable for the invasion of Luzon and specifically Bataan would be thrown into

considerable disorder by tenacious tactical fighting which would completely disrupt his operations.^{viii}

05:47 - Hall: "There were the Japs, they had cruisers, they had destroyers... tanks, already landed"

The 71st and 11th Philippine Army Divisions withdraw from the area of landing can largely be attributed to confusion on the battlefield. Until then the plan had been to execute **War Plan Orange** whose component part for the defenders of the Philippines involved withdrawing to Bataan and defending along preordered lines of defense, each falling back in succession on a strict timetable. General



MacArthur made a decision that instead, the defenders would fight the Japanese on the beaches. This motivated the troops, because they would now be involved in an "active" defense instead of what basically amounts to a fighting withdraw (a retreat in civilian parlance). However, it was badly communicated and coordinated and much of the confusion in the rest of the battle of Bataan would be due to the initial orders to defend North and not South as had been previously planned.^{ix}



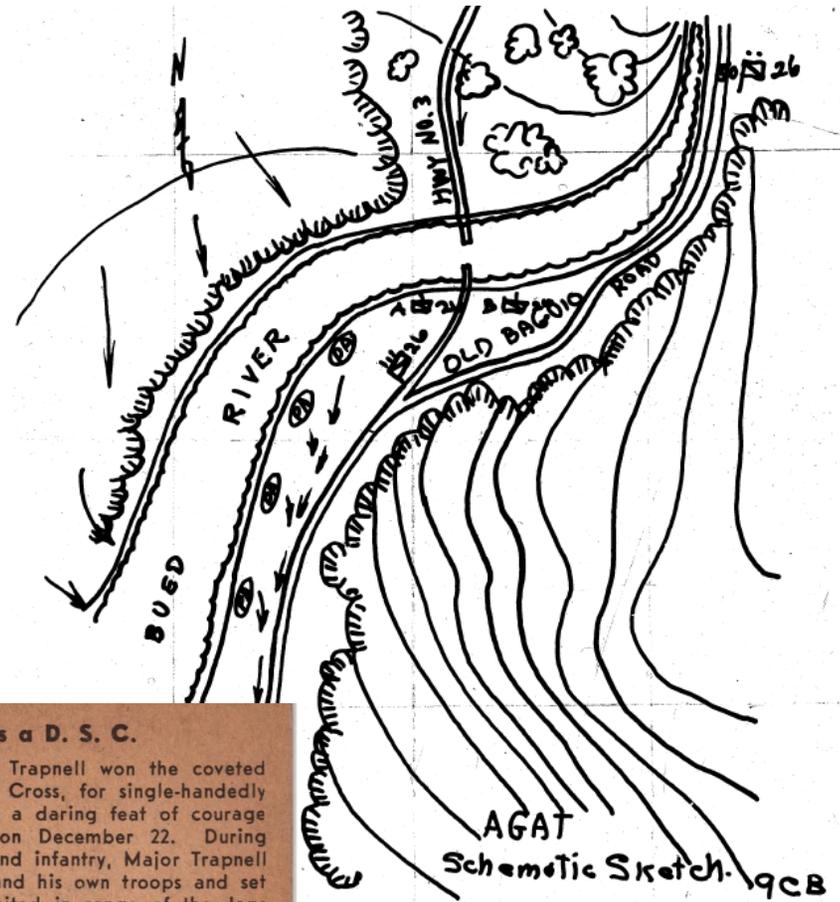
MAJOR

09:46 - Hall: "What was on the tanks? The rising sun. These were Jap tanks..."

Hall was in charge of what is considered a "rear-guard" action. Any "guard" action is intended to buy time to ensure a main force is able to form the next line of defense. In this case the 11th and 71st PA Army Divisions were divided and moving South to occupy locations in Bataan. By now General MacArthur had recognized the chaos that had been created by his earlier reversal and attempted active defense plan of the beaches and began to order the Divisions into position for **War Plan Orange-3**, the defense of Bataan and Corregidor.

12:00 - Hall: "The Japs came right down to the bridge... set the damn thing on fire... don't know how they couldn't hit us..."

It's the 21st of December 1941 and Hall is now describing the events that would merit his nomination for the **Distinguished Service Cross**. The Nations second highest military honor.



MAJOR



35. Major Trapnell Wins a D. S. C.

On January 21, 1942, Major J. H. Trapnell won the coveted decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross, for single-handedly fending off a Japanese advance with a daring feat of courage in Luzon. The action took place on December 22. During concentrated enemy fire from tanks and infantry, Major Trapnell remained between the hostile force and his own troops and set fire to a truck on a bridge. He waited in range of the Japs until the bridge was in flames before leaving the scene in a scout car. He then retired slowly with the rear elements of his organization, picking up wounded soldiers and rallying his men. He disregarded his own safety to delay the hostile advance, setting a splendid example of courage to his entire regiment. Major Trapnell was star end of the Army football team of 1926. He was born in Yonkers, N. Y., and chose the Cavalry branch of the service after graduating from West Point.

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Burns Bridge Under Jap Fire

Major Trapnell, Former West Point Football Star, Wins D. S. C. in Philippines.

By GLEN PERRY.
Special to THE NEW YORK SUN.

The New York Sun Bureau,
Washington, Jan. 22.

Word from the Philippines that Gen. MacArthur had announced the award of the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action to Major Thomas John Hall Trapnell today establishes the first American hero of the war in land fighting. Feats of remarkable bravery by aviators and naval officers had been reported earlier, but Major Trapnell is a cavalryman, and does his fighting on the ground.

The text of the communique giving the citation by Gen. MacArthur follows:

"From his field headquarters in the Philippines Gen. Douglas MacArthur today announced the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Major Thomas J. H. (Trap) Trapnell, cavalry, for extraordinary heroism in action. Major Trapnell, who is a former football hero of the United States Military Academy, matched his brilliant gridiron career with outstanding exploits on the battlefield."

"The action for which Major Trapnell was decorated took place at Rosario in La Union province on December 22, 1941, while his cavalry unit was engaged in rear-guard operations. During concentrated enemy fire from tanks and infantry, Major Trapnell remained between the hostile force and his own troops and set fire to a truck on a bridge.

He waited under fire until the bridge was in flames before leaving the scene in a scout car. He then retired slowly with the rear elements of his organization, picked up wounded soldiers and rallied his men.

"With complete disregard of his personal safety, Major Trapnell delayed the hostile advance and set an inspiring example to his entire regiment.

"Major Trapnell, who is 39 years old, was born in Yonkers, N. Y. He was appointed to the United States Military Academy from New Jersey, and was graduated in 1927. His athletic career, begun so auspiciously at West Point, continued after graduation. He has been active in a number of sports and is one of the army's outstanding polo players."

More to Be Expected.

There is no doubt in the minds of observers here that there will be many more cases of sensation-

forces, cut off from any significant relief by reason of Japanese control of the air over the China Sea, have been putting up what military men regard as one of the most magnificent defensive actions in American war history, and individual feats of valor are certain to be numerous.

Major Trapnell, although born in Yonkers, spent his entire boyhood in Glen Ridge, N. J., attending the public schools there before going to Epis High at Alexandria, Va. He was, as a matter of fact, a classmate of the writer at Glen Ridge High School, class of 1922. Glen Ridge High had no football team at that time, but Trapnell played fullback on a pickup eleven that played with the Montclair Academy third team, and with other scratch outfits in and around Glen Ridge.

Epis High did have a football team, and Trapnell, who was known than as Hall and not Thomas, made it as a halfback. He also became captain of the track team there, being a very fast runner. For a time he considered seriously entering Princeton, but ultimately decided in favor of West Point, where he was a member of the class of 1926.

Was Crack Halfback.

At the Point, Trapnell played under Biff Jones, Ralph Sasse and Earl Blaik, developing into a crack halfback. If memory serves he played in the famous tie game between the Army and Navy in Soldiers Field, Chicago, before a crowd estimated at 120,000 persons, a record for American football up to that time, and perhaps to the present.

Upon graduation Trapnell went into the cavalry as a second lieutenant and demonstrated great ability to his senior officers. One of his brothers, Scott, had gone into the navy, and is now a Lieut.-Commander. Another, Bill, was an outstanding athlete at Hobart, playing football and lacrosse.

Subsequently Trapnell served at Fort Myer, outside Washington, and established himself as

something of a polo player. He had previously been assigned to the Presidio, San Francisco, where he was married to Miss Alice Snow.

The War Department communique announcing the award gave no details of military action in the Philippines. Most recent word was that Gen. MacArthur's troops had hurled back the Japanese and had recaptured positions lost earlier, while guerrilla fighters, operating behind the Japanese lines, were reported to have done excellent work around a Nipponese air field on Luzon Island.

Supplies Are Problem.

The brilliant defense of the Philippines by Gen. MacArthur's American and native forces is recognized here as having put a serious crimp in Japanese plans, and to have spared the British Malayan defenders the necessity of having to meet even greater enemy numbers. At the same time the position of Gen. MacArthur's command becomes increasingly precarious as stocks of food and ammunition are depleted.

It is hoped here that means have been found to transfer supplies from the island fortress of Corregidor to the Batan Peninsula, for it is difficult to see how significant assistance can be brought in from outside the Philippines. The hazards attendant upon bringing large sized vessels within reach of Japanese air power are too great, for the present at least.

Wife Welcomes News.

Newport, R. I., Jan. 22 (A. P.).—Mrs. Alice Snow Trapnell said today that it was nice to hear that her husband was an army hero but that it was even nicer to learn where he was.

Informed that her husband, Major Thomas J. H. Trapnell, had won the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in action in the Philippines, Mrs. Trapnell said:

"I'm thrilled and proud, of course—but the greatest relief is to hear of him and know where he is. I hadn't heard from him since war broke out."

Mrs. Trapnell has been living with a sister at Newport for two months. She had been with her husband in the Philippines until last May, when "the army wives were evacuated."

She has been doing work for the Red Cross here.

Record at West Point.

The qualities exhibited by Major Trapnell in the exploit which won him the distinguished service cross had long been apparent to his associates.

The West Point year book for 1927 had this to say about him: "For the class and for the

academy he has been a zealous worker, but toward his own advancement he has taken a non-chalant attitude—the attitude of the truly unselfish comrade-in-arms. He is one who thinks first, acts quickly and wisely, and of whom it can never be said he boasts."

He served as president of his class for three years. In addition to playing halfback on the army football team, he captained the lacrosse team. He is a crack shot with rifle or pistol.

In spite of the demands made upon his time by drill, study and sports, he managed also to serve as president of the academy Y. M. C. A., and to teach a Sunday School class.

Mother in Baltimore.

Major Trapnell is the son of Mrs. Laura Virginia Kennedy Trapnell and the late Joseph Trapnell, who was an officer in a New York city trust company. There are five boys and two girls in the family. The mother lives in Baltimore with two of her sons and a daughter.

One of the major's brothers is Walter Scott Trapnell, an Annapolis graduate of 1920, who is port captain at Balboa, Panama. A cousin, Lieut. Frederick M. Trapnell, is a navy flyer.

The oldest brother, Joseph Trapnell 3d, of Baltimore, served in the United States Navy in the world war. He said the family was overjoyed to learn that Trap was safe and had been decorated.

"Of course, mother is perfectly delighted," he went on. "But she said she wasn't too surprised. She said it sounded just like him. And we all feel that he was only doing his duty."

No More Parachute Flares.

Miami, Fla., Jan. 22 (A. P.).—Policemen hurled hand grenades, fired tear gas shells, riot and machine guns in practice here, but decided there would be no more shooting of parachute flares. They stuffed the parachute flare into the barrel that fires it, and let it go. A few minutes later they were firemen instead of policemen. It took hours to put out the grass blaze.

Cited for Heroism



Associated Press Photo.
Major Thomas J. H. Trapnell.

PIANIST FALLS DEAD

Kurt Engel Succumbs as He Was Giving Lesson.

Kurt Engel, refugee pianist who attained a wide reputation in Europe before he came to this country three years ago, fell dead today as he was giving a piano lesson in his apartment at 860, West End avenue.

The pupil, Allen Kaplan of 22 Main street, Port Washington, at once summoned help, but when a doctor arrived he said that the pianist apparently had died instantly.

Born in Warsaw thirty-three years ago, Mr. Engel studied piano under Ignatz Friedmann and Emil von Sauer. He won the International Chopin competition in 1932 and gave a number of concerts in Rome, Madrid and Vienna. Since coming to this country in 1939 he had given a few recitals. One of them was in the Carnegie Chamber Music Hall, where he was to have given another on February 8.

ARNOLD CONSTABLE • FIFTH AVENUE
cordially invites you to meet
SABU,
"THE ELEPHANT BOY"
star of the United Artists
Movie, "JUNGLE BOOK"
in our Jewelry Department.
Tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 23rd,
1:45 to 2:45 P. M.



MAJOR



MAJOR

Halls receipt of the DSC was approved and issued to him on 18 January and spoken of in the press on 22 January 1942. That's one month from the battle to the point where it was heralded in the press. This brings up two interesting points. The first was that the issuers of the award knew that the American people needed a hero and needed to recognize that Bataan was at the beginning of a very bloody war. The second is that only one person in the Operational Theater could have made that happen: it would have to have been approved personally by General MacArthur. Based on the time it took to have the award entered into Traps file, likely MacArthur didn't even await permission and approved it on the spot without approval from the Department of the Army. None of this takes away from the heroism displayed by Hall. In his narrative he abbreviates his actions, but it is likely that Hall's actions that day and decision to destroy the bridge, while under heavy fire was the action that broke the Japanese momentum on their advance onto the Bataan peninsula. His action certainly saved the lives of the 71st



Division who were largely in rout and would have been caught in the flank by a strong force of Japanese Type-97 tanks. But also gave time to the Bataan defenders to establish the initial **War Plan Orange** day-1 defensive line. His actions at the tactical level had great ramifications for the **Operational level** of war.

14:18 - Hall: "The mission of the North Luzon Force was to hold the Japs..."

As mentioned, MacArthur divided the Army defending Luzon into two parts, the Northern and Southern Luzon Forces. The Northern Luzon Force was now given the mission to delay the Japanese until the Southern Luzon Force could move into Bataan. This was doubly hard because once battered by the fighting withdraw they would have to fill in positions on the Western half of the defensive line. Included in the South Luzon Force were all the Doctors, Nurses, Naval shipyard personnel and civilian workers and their dependents who had not been evacuated. In fact, of the 80,000 troops in Luzon, only 27,000 of them were combat troops. Hall's forces had quite an **Operational Level** burden on their shoulders, if they fell back too quickly the non-combatants would also be killed in the withdraw.



MAJOR

-The Last Cavalry Charge-

On 16 January 1942 the last American mounted tactical cavalry unit in the history of U.S. warfare was conducted by the 26th Cavalry (Philippine Scouts). It was fought in classic cavalry style both mounted and dismounted against Japanese invasion troops. With rations shrinking and the Japanese probing the front lines in force daily. Lieutenant Ed Ramsey was patrolling near Morong when his platoon heard gunfire below them from the small village. Their lead Scout returned "galloping back, one of the Privates horses streaming blood across his horse's neck and flank." He noticed hundreds of Japanese filing into the village to seize the



U.S. Cavalry's Last Charge
26th Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts)
Bataan, January 1942



MAJOR



Batalon bridge. He ordered the men to charge. They cut through the advance guard of the Japanese force and held the main road across the bridge dismounting to toss grenades and exchange rifle fire. Hall was with the main body of the 26th further South because on the same day 16 January 1942 he took over as Executive Officer for the Regiment.



MAJOR



MAJOR



16:46 - Hall: "Did you ever eat a polo pony, they're pretty tough..."

-The Battle of Bataan-

The battle for Bataan and Corregidor was as bloody as you may have heard about. 10,000 were killed and 20,000 were wounded. For a comparison D-Day at Normandy beach in France was half that with 4,413 dead (U.S., Canadian and British) and more than 8,000 wounded. The battle was fought in withdraw with Japanese General Homma pressing his attacks daily with little or no pause. As the defenders gained time they mounted tenacious defenses which threw General Homma's timetable off considerably from planning. This not only infuriated General Homma, led his high command to consider his relief and to take his most experienced division from him near the end of the battle to send West to fight the British. The Japanese had a strict time table of their own for increasing what they called the Japanese Co-prosperity Sphere and Homma's failures were ruining their Strategic Level of war timetables. As described, the Bataan peninsula was divided in half, with the Bataan mountain in the middle and the two halves on the coasts (see inset maps). General King had the Eastern side and General Wainwright the West. The defense fought for 3-months and 2 days across three major battle lines.

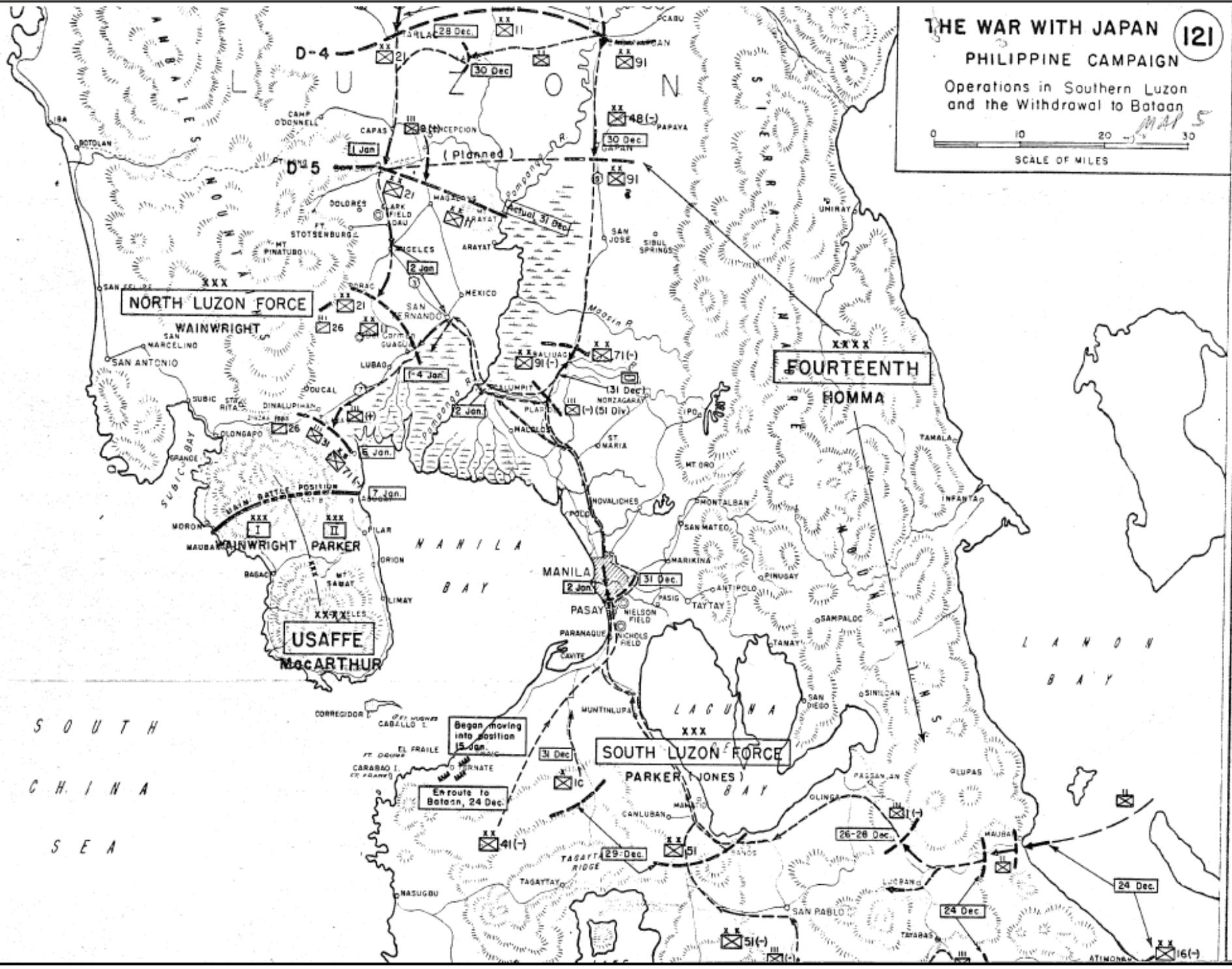
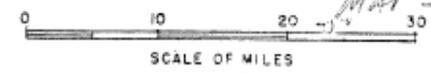
17:36 - Hall: "Everyone was at half rations now."

One of the Operational blunders of the Battle of Corregidor and a demonstration of how plans unravel was the switch to the active defense and the late switch back to War Plan Orange. WPO-3 called for a large stockpile of munitions and food which was located in warehouses in Manila. When the units were headed North to defend from the beaches,

the supply was not sent into the Bataan peninsula because it was believed it would be needed in a central location to be distributed. When word came that WPO-3 was activated, most of the supply could not move down the peninsula because the roads were clogged with withdrawing troops, the supply centers were in confusion with some seized by supply officers who hadn't received the change in orders, and due to lack of transportation. This proved disastrous, and in order to continue the defense, rations were first cut in half and then into thirds for most of the three months of the defense. For the troops this began a slow and painful decline in health. Additionally many of the battle lines needed to be dug in and patrols mounted through the jungle canopies of Bataan. With the shortening of rations came also a shortening of medicine. Men started to contract illnesses that had been preventable like Beri Beri, malaria and dysentery.

THE WAR WITH JAPAN (121)
PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN

Operations in Southern Luzon
and the Withdrawal to Bataan



NORTH LUZON FORCE

FOURTEENTH
HOMMA

USAFFE
MACARTHUR

SOUTH LUZON FORCE

SOUTH
CHINA
SEA

Began moving
into position
15 Jan.

En route to
Bataan, 24 Dec.

29 Dec.

24 Dec.

24 Dec.



MAJOR



MAJOR

-Surrender-

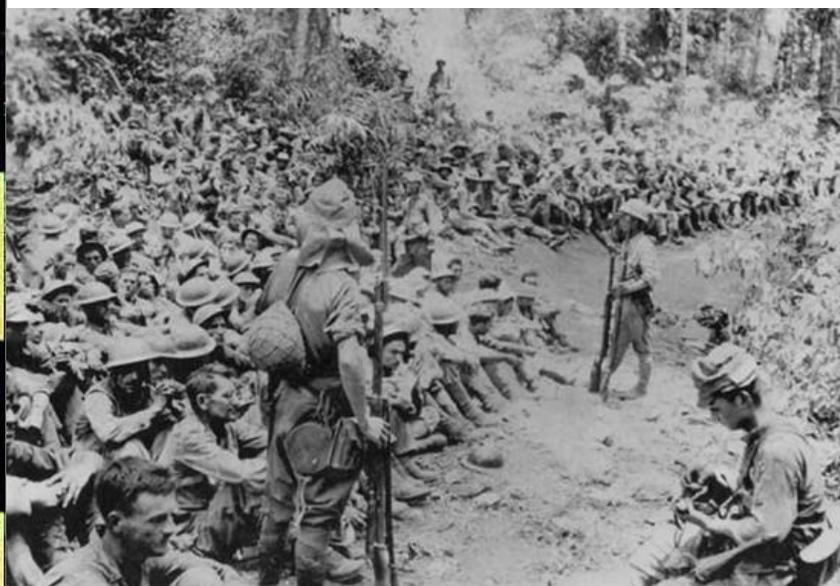
On 12 March 1942 MacArthur left the Philippines with his family. He appointed Lieutenant General Jonathan Wainwright as the new commander of USAFFE. Wainwright in taking charge of the defenses said "a man moving about had to rest every few hundred feet; a man in a foxhole was too weak to climb out; and those suffering from dysentery lay in their own filth." On 3 April 1942 the front lines were attacked by 100 bombers and 300 artillery pieces for eight hours. The hill and defenses became an inferno. On 07 April 1942 Hall became the Commanding Officer of the 26th Philippine Scout Regiment. He took command because his commanding officer, Colonel Clinton Pierce had fought so bravely he was given command of a division of PA. It was a short lived command though. On April 9th Gen. King met with Maj. Gen. Kameichiro Nagano and the unfed, malaria ridden, embattled defenders of Bataan surrendered. In the largest surrender in U.S. history, 75,000 American and Filipino servicemen went into captivity.





LIEUTENANT COLONEL

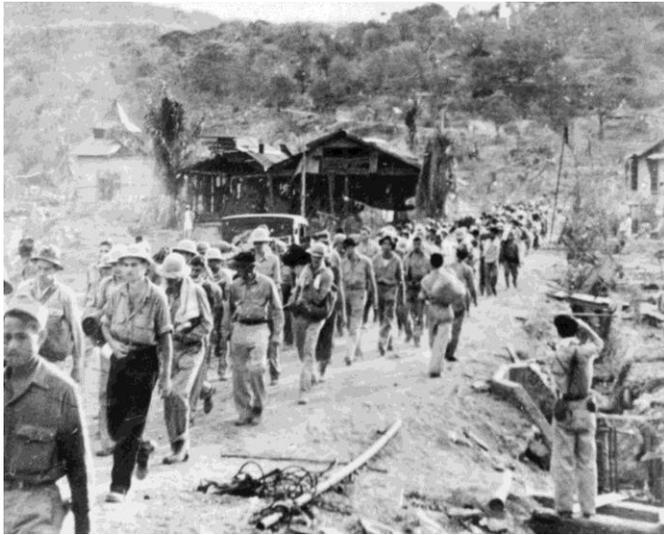
-The March and Captivity-



Taken prisoner on 10 April 1942 along with remaining U.S. forces, Trapnell endured months of horrific conditions at Camps O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. It is difficult to understate the treatment the men endured on the Bataan Death March. Hall says almost nothing about it, but reports, records and first-hand accounts from the time mention the unspeakable. Upon surrender the first Japanese soldiers to come across a U.S. service member was looted of all his possessions. Anything of value and most food was taken. The men then began the march with one ball of rice at the beginning of the march immediately following the surrender on 09-10 April 1942 and were not fed again until they arrived at their destinations. One misconception was that it was one long string of prisoners marching North on Corregidor. In fact it was multiple files



LIEUTENANT COLONEL



of U.S. and Filipino prisoners started at different times and of varying sizes. The trip was 80-miles and approximately 10,000 men died of murder, starvation and disease.

The first of the atrocities began immediately after surrender when 450 Filipino Officers and Staff Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) were walked away from the main pack of men, lined-up near a ditch and executed by the Japanese. This began the horror of the march as wounded and sick prisoners too tired to begin the march were bayoneted. Sick men seeing this treatment chose to march. When they

couldn't make it they were bayoneted on the side of the road for straggling or stopping. Many men had no helmets or head covering or had uniforms which were torn and the march in the heat of the sun pushed them

to their breaking point. Sick men with dysentery or those too sick to move at the start of each day were killed or buried alive in the latrines by fellow prisoners or bayoneted. Those refusing to bury their comrades alive were bayoneted or beheaded.^{xiii} The Japanese were instructed to use bayonets as it saved the government ammunition but it began a horrific legacy of very personal death at the hands of their captors which many men recall. When a pack of men stopped for the night they were forced to drink from rancid water buffalo wallows, the Japanese soldiers drank from artesian wells. Some went insane and ran for the water only to be executed for trying to take a drink. The marchers were at the whim of their captors and sometimes marched all night. One Japanese Officer stood in the middle of the road as the prisoners trudged by swinging a baseball bat killing or maiming those who filed by. Troops trying to avoid his blows were pushed by bayonet back into line. Any who fell down because of the



LIEUTENANT COLONEL





LIEUTENANT COLONEL



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strikes were killed. Captain Manny Lawton recalls in his memoirs two Air Corps Officers who fell back and were bludgeoned to death by clubs in the squad in front of him.^{xiv} His group was forced to march over their mangled bodies. So called "Buzzard Squads" followed behind the long lines of men and killed any who straggled. Japanese Officers in the "Buzzard-Squads" rode on horseback and practiced their sword strokes beheading stragglers. Columns of tanks driving down the roads would routinely swerve to run over soldiers. The Japanese would not let them stop in any shade and the men became horribly sunburnt.

Approximately 11,000 men died as a result of the Bataan Death March.

A trip to the National Archives (NARA) in College Park, MD can teach a few things about the battle in the Philippines. First, that our paper records are in dubious conditions at best, but also that there are some very fine paper records of our history still in existence. I found records from Doctors and Nurses who were captured at the Hospitals on Bataan, Manila and Corregidor who were made to take care of the U.S. Servicemen in captivity under sickening conditions. The death rosters were typed out monthly by hospital orderlies and are well preserved. Directly following the Bataan Death march the death rosters are oversimplified. Several reports state that the Japanese would not allow a full accounting, but certainly the records show a huge number of deaths from what could be considered neglect or and lack of medicine.

20:28 - Hall: "We weren't worth a damn. We were sick and everything else."

Hall was first interred at the Cabanatuan POW camp on Luzon. It had an average of 40-60 prisoners die a week from dysentery, Beri Beri, Malaria and other preventable tropical illnesses. Less apparent to history are how many died directly at the hands of the Japanese. Doctors and nurses following their liberation from captivity stated that they had been directed by the Japanese not to record abuses. However the lists of dead later declined as those with severe illnesses perished but the causes recorded became also were more explicitly recorded: "shot by guard," "died of multiple slash wounds to upper thigh," "died of bayonet wounds to left breast," "fell out of a tree after being ordered to pick coconuts by guard," and quite a few non-specific deaths listed as "hemorrhage of the brain," etc. which could be disease but were more likely blows to the head from rifle butts. General Wainwright records the penchant of the guards to bludgeon prisoners with rifle butts for failing to bow. They especially liked to do this to senior officers who may still believe in some sense of respect or deference for their former rank. The Japanese showed no sense of responsibility for the lives of their prisoners and were in fact instructed that prisoners were subhuman



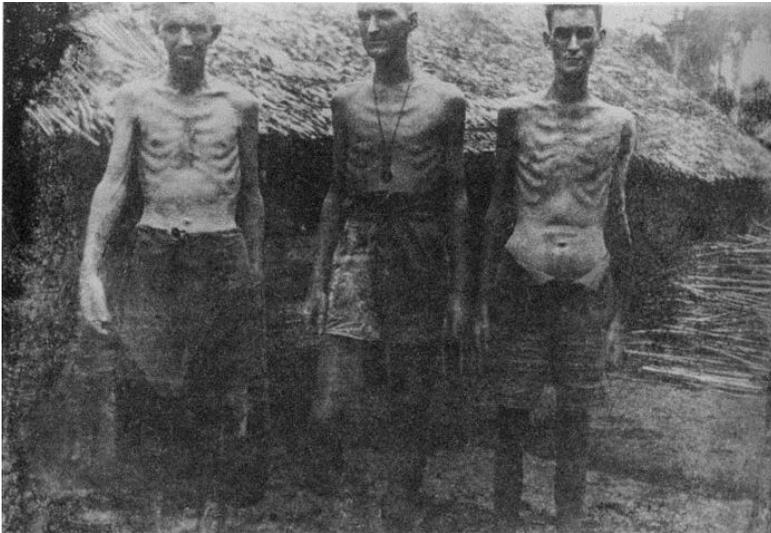


LIEUTENANT COLONEL

and should be treated as such. The prisoners began camp life as slave laborers constructing roads and airfields. Those trying to escape were shot and life for those left behind got worse to prevent escapes. While interned, Hall was promoted to lieutenant colonel. Hall endured captivity here for almost 2 1/2 years then was transferred to Fort Bilibid.

20:35 - Hall: "In the Fall of '44, they took those they could move down to Bilibid in Manila."

On the 13th of December, 1944, Hall along was transferred along with 1,620 other prisoners, on the notorious POW hell ship, *Oryoku Maru*. Stuffed into the hold of the ship, the men suffered from the heat, lack of food and ventilation. The temperature rose to over 120-degrees and after repeated requests to send down excrement buckets and assist with ventilation the Japanese battened the hatches trapping the men inside. With no way to get rid of waste, the men stood in open sewage that washed around the hold of the ship. On the 14th



the ship was strafed by U.S. planes and the men were severely beaten in reprisal. Men wounded in the strafing were denied medical assistance and died of wounds. Men went insane from the stench and unbearable conditions and lashed out screaming, drank their own urine or the waste water running through the hold with an additional 60 dying from suffocation. There was no way to bring order to the men and many officers and men were beaten or trampled to death in the chaos.

21:04 - Hall: "By that time our troops were in Leyte."

On December 15th they were dive-bombed by U.S. planes from the carrier, the *USS Hornet* (CV-12), unaware of the unmarked ship's status as they entered Subic Bay. The significance is that the *USS Hornet* was a part of the U.S. invasion force under Fleet Admiral Halsey and Admiral John McCain attacking the Japanese in the Philippines. The ship started to sink and was beached near Subic while Japanese civilians were evacuated. During the evacuation several Japanese guards shot openly into the holds hitting several men. There was

some belief that the ship would be attacked again so the prisoners were left aboard the ship and were told any prisoner trying to swim away would be shot.^{xv} Two-hundred men were killed trying to escape the ship or were shot by a Japanese machineguns set up on shore when they tried to swim away. The next morning the men were told to leave their shoes behind and then instructed to swim ashore by the Japanese, many couldn't swim and drown.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL





LIEUTENANT COLONEL



LIEUTENANT COLONEL

23:04 - Hall: "And it was there on tennis courts, right there at Olongapo. For three days the only rations we had were three tablespoons of dry, uncooked rice."

They were interred on open tennis courts at Olongapo Naval base. Again they were afforded no sanitation and many died. The men were mostly in shorts and no shirts and suffered severely from exposure. On the 18th of December a Marine prisoner, Corporal Eugene Specht's arm had become gangrenous after being shot aboard the ship and the prisoners had to amputate it using a knife from a mess kit and no anesthetic.

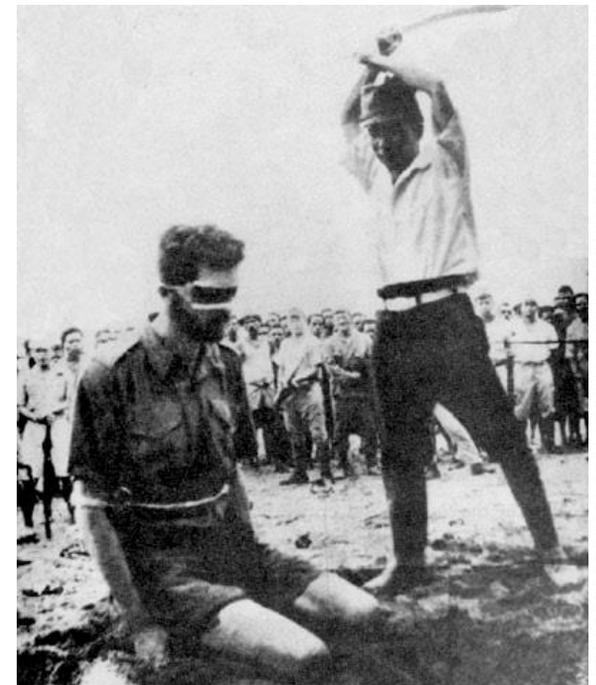
23:04 - Hall: "We thought they were taking them to Bilibid. We thought that was fine. They were the lucky ones. But they took them out back and shot them."

On the 23rd of December the guards instructed the groups senior leaders to select fifteen of the sickest men. The prisoners were told they were being trucked back to Bilibid for treatment. In the 1946-47 War Crimes Tribunal it was revealed that they were taken to a graveyard and beheaded one at a time under the supervision of Lieutenant Toshino who had been in charge of the prison detail.^{xvi} The survivors were sent to San Fernando, Papanga then to San Fernando, La Union to board another Japanese ship the *Enoura Maru* and a smaller ship the *Brazil Maru*.

On 01 January 1945 the *Enoura Maru* debarked the Philippines carrying 1,000 prisoners with another 236 aboard the *Brazil Maru*. The men were forced to jump onto the ship to board her and several men broke their legs doing so. Those who hesitated were pushed and some fell into the water and died. The men were not fed for two days. On the third day they were fed the leavings from five of their guards then a mold and maggot infested hard tack called "Japanese Rolls."

25:01 - Hall: "We pulled into Takao, which is Formosa... we got a direct hit into the hold."

When they arrived at Takao Harbor on 09 January in Taiwan they were bombed again. United States Navy aircraft attacked and disabled the *Enoura Maru* killing 300 men. The ship didn't sink fully as it was tied to several other ships in the harbor. The men in the forward hold with Trap numbered 408 at the start of the voyage but after the bombing and several days half sunk and trapped in a locked hold with no food or water only 20 survived including Trap. He and the other survivors from other holds of *Enoura Maru* were transferred aboard the *Brazil Maru* now starting the trip from Taiwan with about 950. One survivor remembered the Chaplains sacrifices in particular: A Chaplain prisoner led a prayer every night for the men then he too succumbed on the 5th night. Another Chaplain gave all his food to the dying and died of starvation, a third Chaplain died from over exhaustion from tending the sick.





LIEUTENANT COLONEL



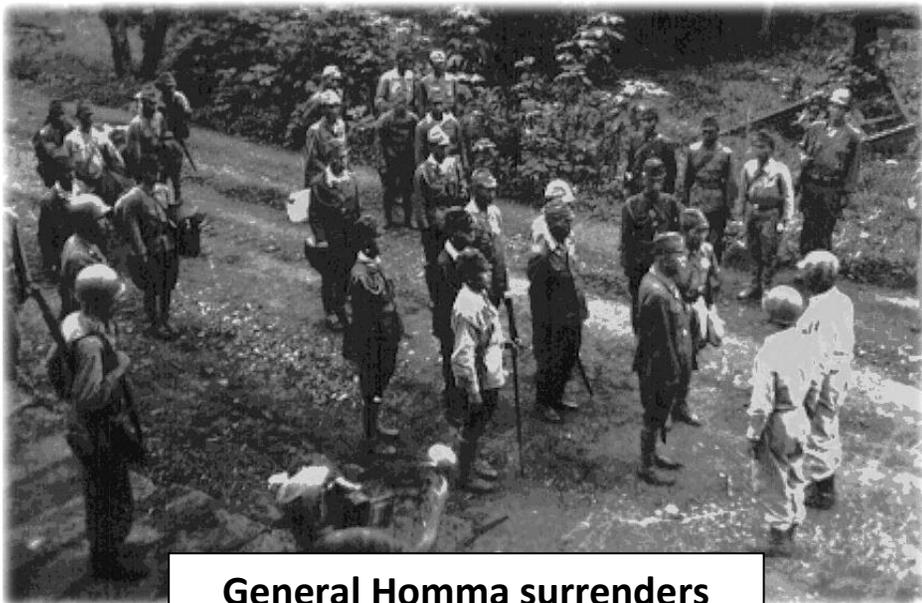
LIEUTENANT COLONEL

27:24 - Hall: "One classmate named Mo Daily."

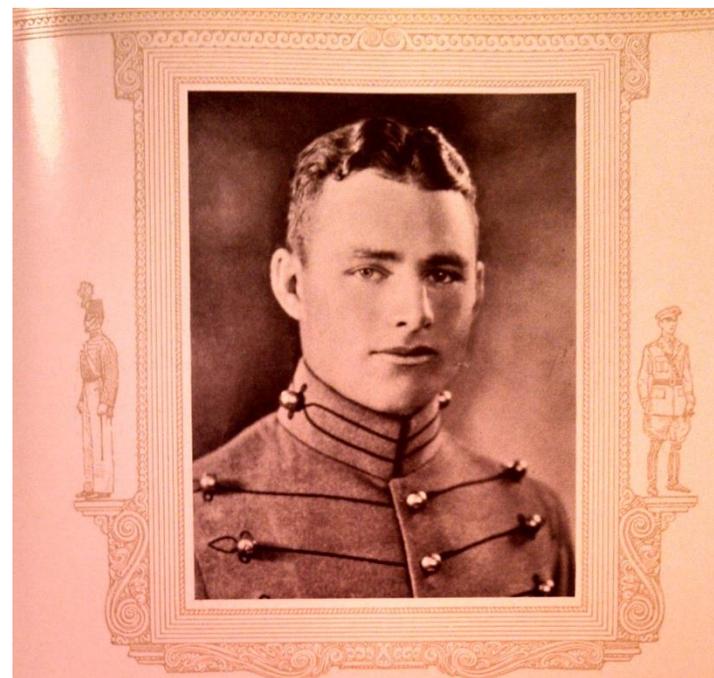
Hall recalls in the interview that it became very cold at night and he had to hug a fellow prisoner to stay warm. He and his buddy Mo Daily (Maurice Francis Daly from Hartford, Conn), a fellow West Point football player tried to stay warm in this manner. When Hall woke up, he realized Mo had died during the night and he'd been hugging his corpse to try to stay alive. From the original 1,600 men who left the Philippines on the 13th of December only 450 survived the entire journey to Japan.

Trap was transferred in another ship and sent to Pusan Korea and then to Mukden prison camp in Manchuria. On 16 August a Special Forces Team parachuted into the camp looking for General Wainwright who was being held just North in another camp called Hoten POW camp.^{xvii} Hall recalls seeing U.S. Paratroopers coming into the camp to negotiate with the Japanese. On 20 August 1945, Trap was liberated by Russian troops. Lieutenant Toshino who was responsible for Hall's hell ship was found guilty as a Class B war criminal for personally murdering the 15 men at the

tennis court an assigned death by hanging. General Homma, responsible for the overall care of prisoners in the Philippines was found guilty and in spite of a strong legal defense was sentenced to death by firing squad in 1946.



General Homma surrenders



MAURICE FRANCIS DALY
1ST DISTRICT CONNECTICUT
HARTFORD, CONN.

WHEN a man starts off as a farmer, shifts to flipping pancakes and baking pie crusts in a lumber camp, rustles gondolas in Colonel Carmichael's Western Maryland freight yard, plays four years of college football and basketball, then to top it all comes to West Point for a finishing touch, there's really no way to speculate on his next move. That's Moe all over. One can never tell which way he'll jump. He's just as apt to wind up a sheepherder as an Aviation Officer.

At the Point, football and basketball didn't take up enough time, so he meddled in hockey, lacrosse, and dramatics with a remarkable degree of success. The success of his first appearance on the stage will insure him a job as a paper hanger if worse comes to worst.

And still there was too much time left, so the Reeder-Daly Quartet was started. Its recommendations, growth, and development can best be told by those who lived in South Barracks, for their patience and good nature were sorely tried each evening between supper and call to quarters.

If Moe persists in complying with his one and only regulation—"all rules and regulations are made solely to try one's ordinarily sweet disposition"—he'll be welcomed as heartily by everyone as by his classmates.

CORPORAL 2. CATHOLIC CHAPEL CHOIR FOOTBALL 4 3 2 1. "A" 2 1 BASKETBALL 4
LACROSSE 4 3 2 1 HOCKEY 3 2 1 "A" 3 2 1



LIEUTENANT COLONEL



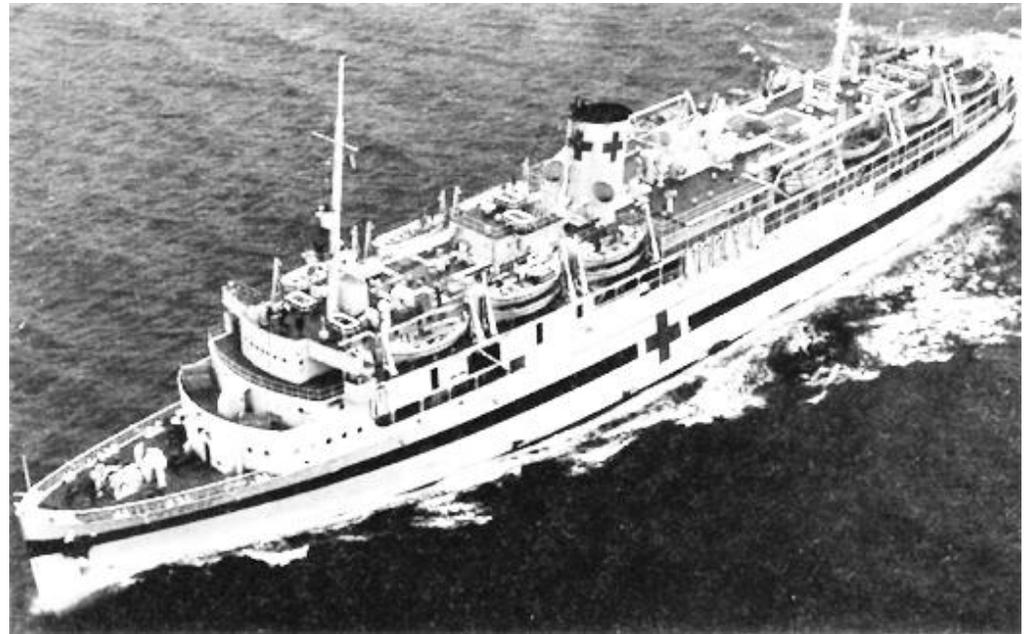
LIEUTENANT COLONEL

CHAPTER IV

-Returning Home-

Hall's once athletic, six-foot frame had been reduced to less than 100 pounds. Hall traveled by train to Dalain Korea then aboard the Navy hospital ship *USS Rescue* (AH-18) to Okinawa and then Manila. From Manila Hall flew back to the United States arriving on 16 October 1945 at Van Nys California. He was listed as a patient and on recuperative leave until 01 March 1946. According to relatives he was unrecognizable and according to his youngest sister he could not even eat a half of a waffle for breakfast. Slowly he regained some strength and though he had suffered almost every one of the tropical or hygiene related illnesses that were listed in the prison camps he wanted to have a full career.

Around this time, the U.S. Army was trying to rebuild in the face of a growing communist threat from Eastern Europe. Retaining a large group of Officers and men in the Service who had not fought the war and had been weakened by their internment was not in their design. The Veterans Administration arranged large pension and disability payments for the Officers after medical exams confirmed their illnesses. Undaunted, Hall and a group of other officers who were strongly encouraged to get out, decided they had geared their lives toward the service and had many good years left. They believed that the U.S. had learned three things about its own military futures: Heavy armor, Nuclear weapons and airborne/paratrooper infantry. Hall knew nothing about armor; there were no U.S. Army nukes (yet), so that left the paratroopers. He and his pals were on average 40-44 years of age. To give you an idea, the average age for paratroopers going through jump school today is 24. That includes their Officers. Hall and his fellows decided that if they could pass jump school and become a part of the airborne mafia no one could refute their fitness for service and they would be in a prime position to maintain upward mobility in the nation's premiere new arm of the service. Hall passed the tests. Ask any paratrooper how he passed after the hell he had endured and the diseases and privation he had suffered and at his age and they will be incredulous.





COLONEL



COLONEL



Chapter V

-Regimental Command-

Equally as inspiring he was selected to command the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina on 07 October 1947. On the 8th of June, 1950 Hall was promoted to Colonel. Trap led the men in an exciting exercise to drop over 2,200 paratroopers 500-miles to a drop zone at Camp Campbell, Kentucky.



BRIGADIER GENERAL



BRIGADIER GENERAL

CHAPTER VI

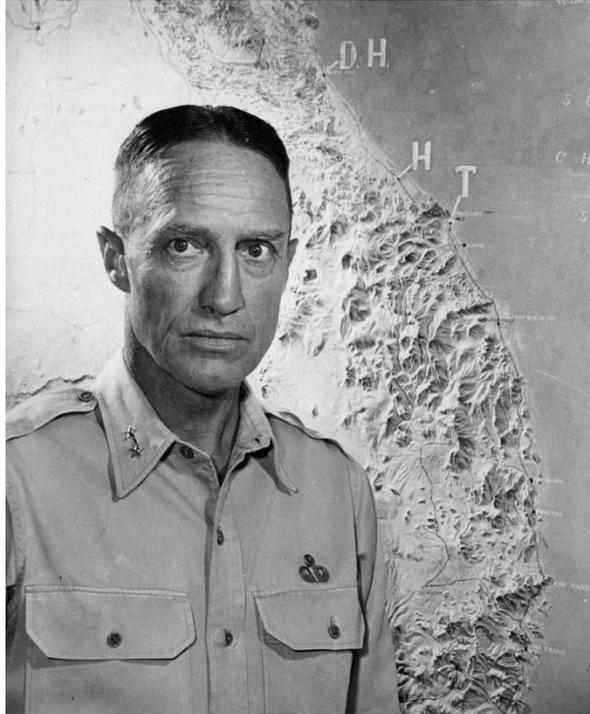
-Korea and The East-

On 28 July 1951 Hall took command of the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, Regimental Combat Team. 09 October 1951 Hall was promoted to Brigadier General. Hall commanded the 187th AIR. From May to June of 1952 the unit was sent to put down a prison revolt at Joje-do Island in Korea. Prisoners staged a revolt fomented by communist leaders in the camps. Hall and his men seized control of the camp and put down the revolt with a minimal loss of life (40 North Koreans killed). The revolt had been staged purposely to derail the ongoing talks between the U.S. and North Korean Governments.





MAJOR GENERAL



-Indochina-

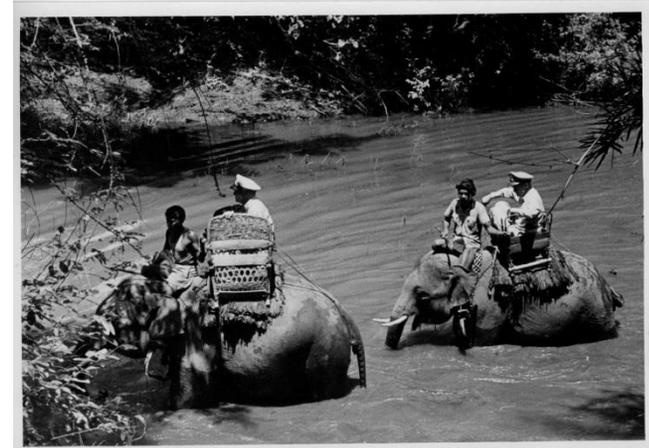
On 21 July of 1952 Trap was sent to Indochina (Vietnam) as the Chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group or MAAG as it was more commonly known. His duties there were to support U.S. interests in the region by advising the French military and more importantly ensuring they were using the large amount, of material and resources (\$10-Million in 1950's dollars which is closer to \$100-Million today)^{xviii}

we were providing in a manner consistent with U.S. missions to defeat the spread of communism. Stood up in 1950 by President Truman China was seen as the chief threat to the region and the U.S. began its "brush-fire" diplomacy, trying to stamp out the spread of communism that was perceived as growing rapidly to China's neighbors.^{xix}

27:24 - Hall: "They didn't know what the hell to do with an Airborne Division Commander. So I took over 4th Armored Division." On 01 May 1953 Hall was promoted to Major General and on 06 July 1954 he took command of the 4th Armored Division.



MAJOR GENERAL



Vietnamese President Diem (Assassinated)



LIEUTENANT GENERAL



LIEUTENANT GENERAL

-Advice to Kennedy and the Joint Staff-

35:40 - Hall: "When Dien Bien Phu fell..."

Rumored was Traps opposition to greater U.S. involvement in Indochina. This is not exactly consistent with Halls professional correspondence back to political leadership in Washington, D.C.

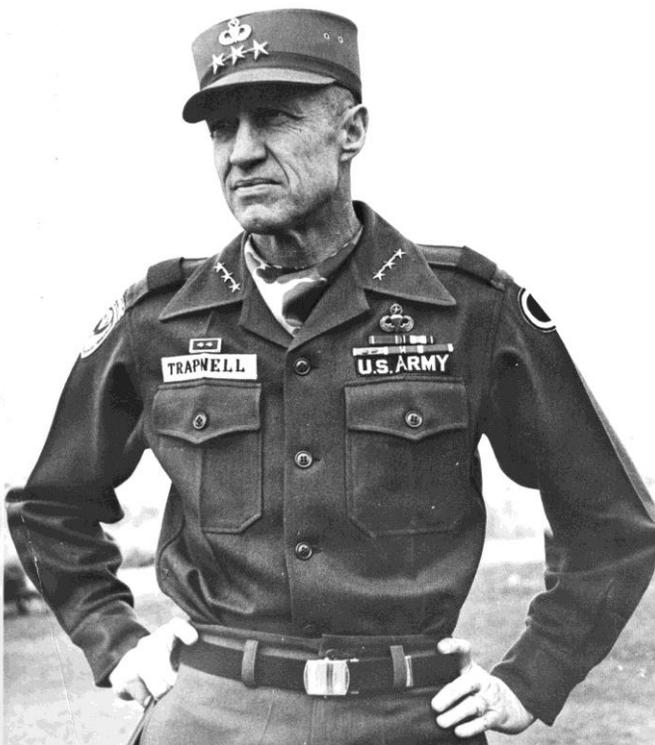
Top Secret reports (now de-classified) show that in his primary duty advising the French on military matters for their war against the Viet Minh he believed they were not

doing a good job. In his estimation, several U.S. Army Divisions could do a better job and the solution was not merely a military one. He recommended against reinforcing the French with more supply and money until they agreed to do it by adhering to U.S. methods. He hated General Navarre, the French Commander and said as much to his superiors. He believed he was not leading the war in a sound manner. Political leadership listened to his advice and got the French government to change its course. General Navarre started to listen to U.S. advice was mostly too late. Hall's service was not just military advice, but operational level advice including guiding U.S. military planes and cargo to locations that would best support French fighting forces.

For his service he was awarded the French and Vietnamese *Croix De Guerre*, the *National Order of Vietnam*, and the Vietnamese *Gallantry Cross*. Though many would account Hall as both brave and lucky for his survival of the ordeal of captivity in WWII he was likely more lucky for his survival of the next phase of his career in Vietnam.

TOP SECRET - Sensitive

Viet Minh forces. In Trapnell's view, few of the aims of the Navarre concept are progressing satisfactorily. "Dien Bien Phu is not only another Na San, but a grave tactical and strategic error." On the political aspects of the war, Trapnell feels that "a strictly military solution to the war in Indochina is not possible...It is doubtful if the ordinary people understand the issues at stake between the rebel and Associated States objectives." The solution in Indochina requires a strong French assault on the Viet Minh, training of National armies, a defensive alliance of Asian nations, and a guarantee of the Associated States borders. Trapnell recommends a U.S. training mission for Indochina, and concludes that victory in Indochina is international rather than local and essentially political as well as military. Major General Trapnell Debriefing, 3 May 1954.....





LIEUTENANT GENERAL



LIEUTENANT GENERAL

Hall departed Vietnam just before the French loss at *Dien Bein Phu*. As a fully qualified jump officer and the senior officer for Chief of the U.S. Mission to Indochina, Hall was with the French forces in the province of the same name just before the now infamous French defeat. He and General Navarre left on the last plane out of *Dien Bien Phu*. The French forces had attempted to pull Ho Chi Minh's forces out of the jungle and into a good fight on their terms. They got it, and in the encirclement that lasted 57-days and cost 9,000 French casualties, almost the same number captured and whose name has become synonymous with tactical blunders that had strategic implications. 37-Americans were involved in the battle, mostly pilots and CIA. Two pilots were killed attempting to provide

supplies to the besieged French bases. Fortunately for him and for us all, a second capture in Asia was not in the cards for Hall and he returned to become the Commander of the 4th Armored Division from 1954-55. Hall mentions this in the tape, but it should be mentioned that it is HIGHLY unusual for a career cavalryman to become an Infantryman, then a paratrooper and then a tank Division commander. It speaks volumes of his versatility that he could do so (and volumes of cavalry officers in general, of course!). 1955-56 Commander, 82nd Airborne Infantry Division. I-Corps Commander in Korea, 1958-59. Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Pacific



General Curtis LeMay



LIEUTENANT GENERAL



LIEUTENANT GENERAL

C O N C L U S I O N

I recommend that the Department of Defense urge that negotiations for agreements to be initiated at the earliest time to achieve the foregoing objectives and that upon reaching an understanding with France and the Associated States, a full-scale U.S. training mission be established with the Associated States forces to achieve an effective training base by Spring of 1956. That the French overwhelm the enemy in the interim is a vital concurrent requirement, and, again, this objective must be achieved by governmental agreement, with the U.S. insisting that the French Government establish military victory as a primary objective and so instruct the field commander, who may then be relieved of his anxieties regarding casualties and indifferent political and moral support from France.

In conclusion, I reaffirm my opinion that victory in Indochina is an international rather than a local matter, and essentially political as well as military.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL



LIEUTENANT GENERAL

-Corps and Army Command-

1960-1961 XVIII (18th) Airborne Corps.

1961-62 3rd Army Commander.

27:24 - Hall: "Hill wants to know about your lacrosse game and your polo."

-And we almost come full circle back to the days of his rousing game against his brother at Hobart, against the Native Americans who could reportedly play better than anyone he knew, and his days playing polo in the Philippines.

Halls decorations include:

- Distinguished Service Cross
- Distinguished Service Medal
- Silver Star with two oak leaf clusters
- Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters
- Bronze Star with "V" device for valor
- Purple Heart
- Prisoner of War Medal
- Master Parachutist Badge

He was also been awarded the following non-US decorations:

- Commander of National Order of Vietnam
- Order of the Cross with Valor and Palm
- Croix de Guerre- both French and Vietnam versions





LIEUTENANT GENERAL



LIEUTENANT GENERAL

-Retirement, Death and Eulogy-

36:33 - Hill forgets to shut off the tape and we hear someone doing a great job practicing the piano. Including scales and Pachelbel's Cannon.

On Wednesday the 13th of February, 2002 Lieutenant General Thomas John Hall Trapnell passed away at the Fairfax Retirement facility at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. A flag was flown in his honor in July of 2002 at the United States Military Academy at West Point and turned over to Mrs. Eleanor Trapnell Hilleary Dosh (Trap's sister). She also delivered the following words at his funeral and among others offered a very moving portrayal of his life.

"Although LTG Trapnell had a scintillating career amassing numerous awards, encomia, and conferring with important leaders from around the world, Trap was never aloof or conceited. He was a modest, friendly and approachable man who never boasted of his tremendous success. So be it with most great men of history."

- *Eleanor Trapnell Hilleary Dorsey Dosh*. February 13th, 2002. (Eleanor, known as "Polly" followed Trap 2 years later, passing on 24 March, 2004 in Maryland).



LIEUTENANT GENERAL



LIEUTENANT GENERAL

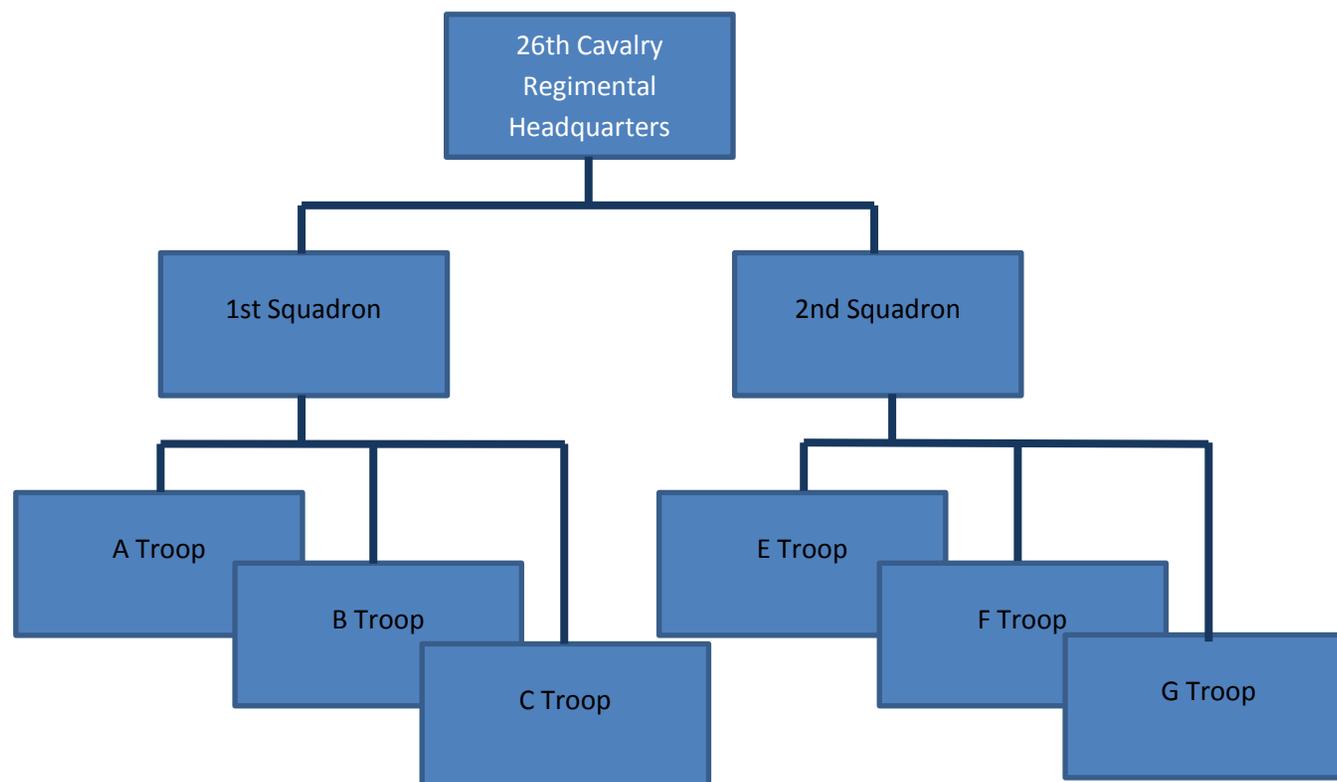


President Kennedy



26TH PHILIPPINE SCOUTS, CAVALRY

~TABLE OF ORGANIZATION~





26TH HORSE CAVALRY (PS) UNIT ROSTER

ROSTER OF OFFICERS
26TH HORSE CAVALRY (PS)
December 1941

Headquarters

1. Colonel Clinton A. Pierce, Commanding
2. Major Lee C. Vance, Executive Officer
3. Major Harry J. Fleeger, S-1
4. Major William E. Chandler, S-2 & S-3
5. Captain Walter J. Buboltz, S-4 - Died December 13, 1944

Headquarters and Service Troop

6. Captain Forest C. Richards - Died January 21, 1945
7. 1st Lt. John A. George - Killed in Action, Dec. 22, 1941 at Damortis
8. 1st Lt. Ethan R. Cunningham - Killed in Action, January 21, 1942 at Morong
9. 1st Lt. Carol I. Cahoon - Killed in Action, January 7, 1942 at Layac Junction
10. 1st Lt. William P. Liesenring
11. 1st Lt. Donald H. Wills

Machine Gun Troop

12. Captain Jack A. Ford - Died December 31, 1944
13. 1st Lt. Paul K. Allen - Killed in Action, December 22, 1941 at Damortis
14. 1st Lt. Domenick G. Troglia - Killed in Action - February 4, 1942 - at Bagac

1st Squadron Headquarters

15. Major Robert W. Ketchum - Killed in Action - December 24, 1941 - at Binalonan
16. Captain Houston S. Farris

Troop A

17. Captain Leland W. Cramer - Died February 26, 1945
18. 1st Lt. Fred B. Evans
19. 1st Lt. Arthur K. Whitehead
20. 1st Lt. Stephens D. Chamberlain - Died June 1945



Troop B

21. Captain Joseph R. Barker - Assassinated October 1945
22. 1st Lt. Henry D. Mark - Killed in Action - December 24, 1941 - Binalonan
23. 2nd Lt. Clinton C. Seymore

Troop C

24. Captain Ralph B Praeger - Captured and executed, 1944
25. 1st Lt. Thomas S. Jones
26. 1st Lt. Warren Mnton

2nd Squadron Headquarters

27. Major Thomas H. Trapnell (Later Squadron Commander then 26th PS Commander for 4-days)
28. Captain James C. Blanning - Died January 26, 1945

Troop E

29. Captain John Z. Wheeler - Died January 1945
30. 1st Lt. Archie M. Hendricks Killed in Action - December 22, 1941 at Damortis
31. 1st Lt. Robert L. Carusso - Died February 14, 1945

Troop F

32. Captain Paul H. Wrinkle - Killed in Action - February 17, 1942 - Trail 45 (Battle of the Pockets)
33. 1st Lt. George J. Spies - Died October 1943 - at Bulacan
34. 1st Lt. Stephen Graves - Killed in Action - January 8, 1942 - at Kulis

Troop G.

35. Captain John W. Fowler
36. 1st Lt. Clifford Hardwick - Killed in Action - January 18, 1942 - at Morong
37. 1st Lt. Edwin P. Ramsey



ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

26TH CAV.

December 1941

38. Captain Mathias E. Zerfas (Chaplain) - Died January 9, 1945
39. Major Emil P Reed (Medical Corp)
40. Captain Shaw (Medical Corp)
41. Captain Larriegay (Dental Corp)
42. Captain William Gochenour (Veterinary Corp)
43. Captain Clayton Mikelson (Veterinary Corp) - Died February 10, 1945

26th Cavalry Officers on detached service with the Philippine Army

44. Lt. Col. Carter R. McLenan
45. Captain William S. Van Nostrand
46. Captain Joseph Cleary - Killed in Action January 13, 1942 - at Abucay
47. Captain P. M. Jones
48. 1st. Lt. Robert C. Burlando - Died December 28, 1943
49. 1st. Lt. David L. Coale - Died December 23, 1944
50. 1st. Lt. James C. Seay
51. 1st. Lt. James E. Bickerton - Died December 13, 1944
52. 1st Lt. Frederick Thomas - Missing in Action
53. 1st. Lt. Russel & Bowers - Killed in Action 23 December 1941 - at Pozorrubio
54. 1st Lt. William H. Ward - Died July 20, 1942
55. 1st Lt. William M. Cummings - Died January 9, 1945



Bataan, a Poem

Cedars on a hillside
In sunny Tennessee,
Mark the spot where soldiers fell
In eighteen sixty three.

Far from home and loved ones,
They rest in peaceful sleep.
The cedars stand as sentinels,
And faithful vigil keep.

No cedars mark the spot,
In faraway Bataan,
Where soldiers brave and fair and true,
Fell before Japan.

No cedars mark the spot!
No chiseled stone their name!
They fought, they bled, they starved.—And hoped
For help which never came!

The green growth of the jungle
Is creeping o'er the spot
Where they fought, and bled, and starved, and died—
The men whom men forgot.

Oh God of hosts, almighty—
God who created man—
Remember them—whose graves are hid
On faraway Bataan.

By: Mallie Wilson Farrell

Mrs. Farrell [1885-1971], poet and wife of a US Army Colonel, penned this shortly after the fall of Bataan. One of her sons, Capt. William E. "Willie" Wilson Farrell, West Point Class of 1937, was a 31st Infantry officer on Bataan. He died on the Hellship Brazil Maru. She also was the mother of Col (ret) Norman Farrell, Class of 1939, a close friend and comrade-in-arms of Col. Mel Rosen, who provided the poem.



26th Cavalry Coat Of Arms

Blazon Shield Azure a sun in splendor with twelve wavy rays Or. Crest On a wreath of the colors Or and Azure a Black horse's head charging erased at the neck bridled and a dexter cubit arm erased habited Olive Drab the hand grasping a sabre at the charge all Proper. Motto OUR STENGTH IS IN LOYALTY. Symbolism Shield The Regiment was organized in 1922 from personnel transferred from the 25th Field Artillery which in turn has been formed from personnel of the 4th Philippine Infantry and the 45th Infantry. The shield is blue for the old Infantry Regiments and also for the color of the sea, which surrounds the Islands. The sun is similar to one which appeared on a flag of the Philippine Insurrection. The twelve rays refer to the twelve principal tribes from which the soldiers of the Regiment came, i.e., Ilocanos, Cagayanes, Pangasinans, Zambals, Pampangos, Igorots, Tagalogs, Bicol, Ilongots, Samars, Cebuanos, and Moros. Crest The crest signifies the dashing spirit of the Cavalry service. Background

The coat of arms was approved on 20 August 1924. It was rescinded on 2 February 1959.



-Citations and References-

The accompanying CD includes many papers and documents that were referenced but not specifically cited. They were invaluable in compiling this paper

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- ⁱ "Army Turns Back Hobart Twelve, 4-1," New York Times, May 1, 1927
- ⁱⁱ *War Plan Orange*, Edward S. Miller, Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD, 1991
- ⁱⁱⁱ *General Wainwright's Story*, Robert Considine, Doubleday Inc, Garden City, NY, 1946
- ^{iv} *Hero of Bataan*, Duane Schultz, St. Martin's Press, 1981
- ^v *Lieutenant Ramsey's War*, Edwin Price Ramsey, Knightsbridge Publishing, New York, NY 1990
- ^{vi} *The Fall of the Philippines*, Louis Morton, Center of Military History, Washington, D.C. 1993
- ^{vii} *The Hunting of Task Force Z*, Richard Hough, Cassell Military Books, 1999
- ^{viii} ob. cit. Morton
- ^{ix} *The Fall of the Philippines*, Center of Military History, Washington, D.C. 2004
- ^x *Odyssey of a Philippine Scout*, Arthur K Whitehead, Aberjona Press, Bedford, PA 2006
- ^{xi} ob. cit. *Ramsey's War*, pg. 58
- ^{xii} *ibid Ramsey's War*
- ^{xiii} *Some Survived*, Manny Lawton, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, NC, 2004
- ^{xiv} *ibid Lawton*
- ^{xv} G HQ, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers Legal Summary #510, File No. 014.13, 25 Feb 1947
- ^{xvi} ob. cit Lawton
- ^{xvii} *Hero of Bataan*, Duane Schultz, St. Martin Press, New York, 1981
- ^{xviii} *Advice and Support, The Early Years*, Ronald H. Spector, Center of Military History, Washington, D.C., 1985
- ^{xix} *Command and Control*, MGEN George S. Eckhardt, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 1974